

SEVEN DAYS
DECEMBER 24, 2014/JANUARY 01, 2015 \$6.99



DOUBLE ISSUE!

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...? Following up on the 2014 news **PAGE 14**
ON THE TABLE... The year's bests in food and drink **PAGE 46**
MOVING PICTURES... What ruled and what bombed at the cinema **PAGE 66**

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Laura Hale
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WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE

But Lauer describes a drink as "a girl's drink" [memory assistance]. Lauer is 30. Jan when did she mean by that? What do people mean when they use this term, "girl's drink," and when they describe things that don't have any gender is gendered? There's all too often there's a kind of paragon implied, and more of a judgment is involved, the act of gendering already serves to reinforce gender stereotypes. Yet so much damage can come to result from any kind of gender stereotyping. We already have no many restrictions placed on gender expression and gender identity so let's leave our drinks alone, and for that matter, our parents and adults to be themselves - to self-identify, self feel dress, express and yes, even choose a drink, without judgment.

Jackie Weinstock
SOUTH BAY, CALIF.

WHY VOTE?

I mark this issue with a recent cartoon in *Seven Days* [Newcomb, December 10]. In it, the cartoonist Tom Newcomb makes the critic and local proponent of the idea that people who don't vote for their rulers have no right to complain about what those rulers do. The idea that the 60 percent of Americans who don't vote are just lazy and incomprehensibly stupid is in fact a lazy, though unfortunately common, thought-terminating misnomer of the liberal class.

Let us direct you to a recent Princeton University study that found, "When the preferences of economic elites and the stands of organized interest groups are controlled for, the preferences of the average American appear to have only a minuscule, at best, statistically insignificant impact upon public policy."

Perhaps those of us who don't vote are actually better informed than those dupes who still do. I'd rather organize other workers, tenants, students and landowners for concrete changes in our immediate circumstances than throw my vote into the trash can known as a ballot box.

Cellars Filled in 45 minutes

POLICE STATE OF MIND

The police state is one of the largest US industries. Even Vermont police departments

have acquired significant military material ["Up in Arms," December 2]. There is construction money for police stations, courthouses, and public and private jails. What is the payroll for our local, county, private and state police? There are jail guards, marshallmen, probation officers, counselors, inmates, health care, food, clothing, etc.

How about the many federal law enforcement agencies? You will see this overlap at U.S. airports. Spies listen to our phone calls and intercept our emails. Soon you will see a drone over Yosemite.

All of this costs, and since the rich will not pay their fair share, education and social services continue to be underfunded. So intergenerational poverty, ignorance, racism, and fear will go on. The police state is thus assured of future customers.

Geoffrey Cobden
 2010-2011

CREATIVE SOLUTION FOR
BURLINGTON COLLEGE

the Old Message: "Meyer Sapperton Must Be Housed and Open Space on Burlington College Property" November 28, Old Message: "Burlington College Land Must Be Moving Forward" November 30, "Gaining Ground, Gone? Who Will Get the Land Around Burlington College?" November 31 Given that Burlington College is a private institution, it is not clear how it would be made sure that the college is more than a site of teaching and CPTU could instead of destroying a housing neighborhood, use the \$6 million to restore the former orphanage? CPTU could partner with other entities — perhaps even the City of Burlington. We could chip in and possibly raise up to conserve a gorgeous plot of open land for a longer price. How a development scheme current history in the case of Burlington College is not clear. It is currently involved in helping to maintain the land under this noble act.

Irene Goldstein
Ruth Guttenberg

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- respond to seven days content
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MON 12/09	DE MASHWOODS 8PM
TUE 12/10	DE CHRIS HITCHELL 8PM JEOPARDY! 9PM
WED 12/11	STREET AND STORIES 7PM DJ CON VAY 9PM
THU 12/12	DE MASHWOODS 8PM DJ CON VAY 9PM

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NEWS

34 Catching Up:

See last seven days' important happenings
 Online: Page 2274
 SPANISH: 4. THIS IS LIFE
 GUYTON FLAG: ALSO FREEZE
 NEWS: 4. ABOUT A HUNDRED

ARTS NEWS

30 Vermont's Drive-In: And Then There Were Three

BY NANCY HARGREN

30 Lyric Theatre Company Prepares to Ring \$1.3 Million Home

BY KIM DINGMAN

VIDEO SERIES



Online during



Music in Vermont. Whether it's warning tips at history-themed South Green community or learning how to connect with friends at the library, explained therapist, van Gogh is usually only with people, saying: "I have a lot of friends."

FEATURES

26 Life Stories

See Us! Remembering Vermonters who died in 2014
 BY JAMES DAVE STAFF

44 Name Game 2014

See Us! All the names of Vermonters who died in 2014
 BY JAMES DAVE STAFF

46 Support to perfection

See Us! The best Vermonters who died in 2014
 BY JAMES DAVE STAFF

50 Best of 2014

See Us! The best of 2014
 BY JAMES DAVE STAFF

64 The Best Award

See Us! The best of 2014
 BY JAMES DAVE STAFF

80 Kinship and Honor

See Us! The best of 2014
 BY JAMES DAVE STAFF

COLUMNS + REVIEWS

18 Fair Game

BY JAMES DAVE STAFF

37 Bookie

BY JAMES DAVE STAFF

43 Soundbites

BY JAMES DAVE STAFF

74 Art Review

BY JAMES DAVE STAFF

88 Ask Athena

BY JAMES DAVE STAFF

SECTIONS

11 The Magnificent 7

BY JAMES DAVE STAFF

32 Calendar

BY JAMES DAVE STAFF

43 Classes

BY JAMES DAVE STAFF

74 Music

BY JAMES DAVE STAFF

80 Movies

BY JAMES DAVE STAFF

FUN STUFF

26

BY JAMES DAVE STAFF

34

BY JAMES DAVE STAFF

44

BY JAMES DAVE STAFF

54

BY JAMES DAVE STAFF

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PLATE 10

[illegible]

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WEDNESDAY 31

CELEBRATING IN STYLE

Free three-well 2014. As this year winds down, **First Night** festivities in Burlington and St. Johnsbury rev up. Local and regional performers lend their talents to dance, theater and musical acts for the entire family. Featuring old favorites alongside newcomers, diverse lineups of entertainment cap off with brilliant fireworks displays. Here's to 2014!

SEE CALENDAR SPOTLIGHT ON PAGE 92
AND CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 91

2

SATURDAY 27

Sleigh Bells Ring

They might be called caribou, moose and caribou, but the four-legged friends at **Vermont Reindeer Farm** have done their jobbed better on the ground. Snapping the North Pole for Northeast Kingdom clips, the animals (seven Schottlandys, where a small red-pelted reindeer is a chamois. These animals learn about the ordered boardwalk to learn about and learn

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 94



3

THURSDAY 1

The Right Note

When a conductor directs music, what's his focus on the **Green Mountain Music Festival**, must-haves are on for a spot. This day, annual New Year's Day concert, artists and students perform with 2014's chorus and orchestra members, whose interpretive team of 100+ North Symphony music funds for the Vermont Family Network.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 92

4

THURSDAY 1

Hitting the Road

Let's up those running shoes! What's racing to brighten up January 1 on the 10th of the New Year? It's on the right foot, thanks to **HeadRun**. The 27th annual road race through downtown Burlington encourages runners and families of all ages to bring a KIDS fun run, a 5K, a 10K, a 15K, a 20K, a 25K, a 30K, a 35K, a 40K, a 45K, a 50K, a 55K, a 60K, a 65K, a 70K, a 75K, a 80K, a 85K, a 90K, a 95K, a 100K, a 105K, a 110K, a 115K, a 120K, a 125K, a 130K, a 135K, a 140K, a 145K, a 150K, a 155K, a 160K, a 165K, a 170K, a 175K, a 180K, a 185K, a 190K, a 195K, a 200K, a 205K, a 210K, a 215K, a 220K, a 225K, a 230K, a 235K, a 240K, a 245K, a 250K, a 255K, a 260K, a 265K, a 270K, a 275K, a 280K, a 285K, a 290K, a 295K, a 300K, a 305K, a 310K, a 315K, a 320K, a 325K, a 330K, a 335K, a 340K, a 345K, a 350K, a 355K, a 360K, a 365K, a 370K, a 375K, a 380K, a 385K, a 390K, a 395K, a 400K, a 405K, a 410K, a 415K, a 420K, a 425K, a 430K, a 435K, a 440K, a 445K, a 450K, a 455K, a 460K, a 465K, a 470K, a 475K, a 480K, a 485K, a 490K, a 495K, a 500K, a 505K, a 510K, a 515K, a 520K, a 525K, a 530K, a 535K, a 540K, a 545K, a 550K, a 555K, a 560K, a 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A Shum-Dinger of a Year

If you'd told us a year ago that Gov. **PHIL SHUMLIN** would come within 2,500 votes of losing reelection and then abandon his signature policy priority, we wouldn't have believed you.

But that's why we didn't go into fortune-telling.

Indeed, 2014 was a fascinating year in Vermont's little political world — and a brutal one for the state's two-term Democratic governor. In November, the seemingly unbeatable politician nearly fell in an utterly unforeseen twist of fate. A month later Shumlin shocked the state by abandoning his quest to implement the nation's first single-payer-style health care system.

Of course, that's not all that went down this year. To refresh your memory, we've compiled one list of the top 10 political stories of the year, presented in loose chronological order:

Drug Czar

Shumlin threw out the usual script last January by opening the 2014 legislative session with a 34-minute State of the State address focused entirely on what he called "a rising tide" of opiate abuse in Vermont.

That began a statewide — and then nationwide — conversation about a tough problem in with no easy solution.

Some questioned whether Shumlin exaggerated the magnitude of the so-called "opiate crisis." Others wondered whether he was cynically courtiering national headlines or distracting Vermonters from his broken health insurance exchange. Still, more wondered whether he was giving the tourist-dependent state a bad rap.

But most praised him for tackling an important issue that could have been ignored under the rug.

By the end of the session, legislators had provided more funding to drug treatment centers, stiffened penalties for traffickers and expanded diversion programs for low-level offenders.

Still Waiting

After adding the nation last March that he was "inspired to run for president of the United States," Sen. **Harkin** (D-Vt.) spent the rest of the year edging ever closer to it.

He traveled to New Hampshire in April for the first of seven campaign-style events as the first in the nation's presidential primary state. The next month, he took to Iowa for the first of four stops to the Hawkeye State, which holds the first presidential caucuses.

Shumlin said he isn't sure whether he'll run, but he's indicated he'd be more likely

to do so in the Democratic primary than as an independent. With former secretary of state **WILLIAM SWANSON** about certain to run — and to crowd out other top-tier candidates — Shumlin is well-positioned to serve as her leftie foil, so long as Sen. **ELIZABETH WARREN** (D-Mass.) doesn't.

The Iowa caucuses are a little more than a year away. If Harkin's success, expect an announcement early next year.

School Daze

Democratic over rating property taxes boiled over on Town Meeting Day on the first Tuesday in March, 35 towns and cities, including Burlington, voted down their school budgets — more than have done so in decades.

Vermont politicians clearly got the message — but legislative remedies proved elusive.

The House spent months crafting a proposal to consolidate school districts, but its leaders couldn't agree whether the bill would actually save money. After narrowly passing the measure in the closing days of the session, the proposal died in an ignominious crash in the Senate.

The debate grew louder but fell, as the bills arrived in mid-June, and became central to legislative and statewide campaign efforts before Election Day. House Democrats pledged to take over action next year to address it. In December, a study group appointed by House Speaker **CHAP GUTHRIE** (D-Montpelier) released a trio of proposals to overhaul the education finance system.

Whether any of them will pass political muster — and actually reduce the tax burden — remains to be seen.

Taking Care of Business

Vermonters' political leaders typically tackle the toughest bills in the first year of the legislative session and cautiously avoid controversy in the lead-up to election years. That means mostly hold fire in 2014, which many referred to as a "quietest" session.

But that doesn't mean nothing got done. In fact, legislators advanced a number of Must priorities by the time they adjourned in May. Among them? A higher minimum wage, mandatory labeling of genetically modified food, universal paid-leave program, child-care assistance, shareholder protection, expanded net metering and even a ban on cell-phone use while driving.

No Corren-ation

In June, former Burlington legislator **Dan Corren** became the first candidate to a

decade to qualify for public financing in his bid for lieutenant governor. Days later, Democrat **JOHN BARNES** dropped out, citing his inability to qualify for the \$200,000 in public campaign cash.

That set up a fascinating one-on-one race between two-term Lt. Gov. **PHIL SCOTT**, a Republican, and Corren, a Progressive.

Throughout the summer and fall, the two candidates waged a thoughtful and (mostly) civil campaign. Though Corren managed to secure the Democratic nomination in the August primary, many top Democrats endorsed Scott or not out the race.

GOV. SHUMLIN'S NEAR-LOSS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY WEAKEN HIM AS HE ENTERS HIS THIRD TERM.

In the end, it wasn't even close. Scott defeated Corren 62 to 38 percent, reestablishing the lieutenant governor as the beleaguered Vermont Republican Party's biggest star.

Agency of Holy Shit

It was a tough year for the Agency of Human Services — the sprawling bureaucracy that oversees everything from prisons to welfare to health care.

The agency's Department for Children and Families came under intense scrutiny after the deaths of two young children under its supervision, allegedly at the hands of family members, in February and April. Several reviews found that understaffing and mismanagement at DCF contributed to the tragedies. Commissioner **MARK SACCOMINI** left the department — apparently voluntarily — in September.

Meanwhile, the agency's Department of Vermont Health Access struggled to get the state's health insurance exchange, Vermont Health Connect, working properly (more on that below). Perhaps as a result, Shumlin stepped DCHA Commissioner **MARK LARSEN** of his responsibility for the exchange, though Larssen still leads the department.

The biggest blow came in August, when Shumlin narrowly fired agency secretary **DAVID WATSON**, the former lieutenant governor and two-time gubernatorial candidate. He was replaced on an interim basis by Department of Health Commissioner **HARRY CHAN** and then, in December, by Capitalize Community Action executive director **MALCOLM**.

With massive budget cuts on the horizon (again, see below), you can be sure that

Vermont's largest and most complex state agency will make next year's list, too.

Miracle Milne

Throughout the spring, Vermont's top Republicans took a pass on challenging Shambin Scott, former lieutenant governor. **MIKE DUBOIS**, Rep. **MIKE SCHNEIDERMAN** (R-Stowe), Champaign for Vermont founder **WILLIAM LAMMAN** and former senator and senator **MAURICE KANE**.

On Friday, day in June, the last man standing was a travel agency owner from Danville, the virtually unknown **SCOTT MILNE**.

The political moves aren't locked fundraising messaging policy and organizing chops that in a year when Shambin's declining popularity trumped all, none of them seemed to matter.

Surprising nearly everyone, Milne came within 2,014 votes of becoming the first challenger since **PAUL ROY** in 1962 to succeed an incumbent Vermont governor.

The critics of why Shambin did so poorly were legion. Liberals thought he'd turned on them, independents were upset over property taxes and health care reform, some just plain didn't like the guy.

The story wasn't over on Election Day After declaring to concede, Milne called on the legislature five weeks later to exercise its constitutional right to install him as governor when it convenes in January.

Though Milne's unlikely to prevail in that Democratic-dominated venue, one thing is for certain: Shambin's close call will severely weaken him in the return he third — and possibly, but not certainly last — term.

Mind the Gap

For much of the spring and summer, economic development officials worried IBM might shutter its basic research and manufacturing facility — one of the state's largest employers. In October, Executive of **IBM** David-son's GlobalFoundries acquired the **IBM**'s semiconductor division and pledged to keep it open for the "foreseeable future."

Vermont's economy may have dodged that bullet, but it continued to struggle in other ways. Personal income tax collections have come in under expectations every month since April, indicating that many Vermonters still aren't feeling the effects of the nation's slow-moving economic recovery.

That's left a significant hole in the state's coffers. Shambin and legislative leaders were forced to cut \$16 million from this year's budget in August, and they're currently contemplating another \$17 million in midyear cuts.

A projected \$100 million gap in next year's budget will surely dominate the dialogue in the coming legislative session.

Minority Report

Shambin wasn't the only who had a tough Election Day.

Democrats lost a dozen seats in the state legislature — and Vermont's U.S. Senate delegation was stripped of several key positions.

After Republicans took the Senate, Sen. **FRANK LAMAY** (D-Vt.) was booted from the president pro tem's office and lost the chairmanship of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Shambin lost the top spot on the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee though he was elevated to ranking member of the Senate Budget Committee.

National races hit Shambin hard, too. The chairman of the Democratic Governors Association had hoped his confidence would win him races in Florida, Wisconsin, Georgia and Kansas, among others. They didn't. Instead, they lost deep-blue states like Massachusetts, Maryland and Maine.

Shambin headed over the DGA race to Montana Gov. **JOHN BULLOCK** in December, leaving him free to, well, focus on his own political career.

Single-Slayer

If there was one political issue that dominated 2008, it was health care reform.

As it did last year, the federally mandated insurance exchange known as Vermont Health Connect continued to disappoint. It suffered from contractor woes, changes of circumstances backlogs and security issues, before going offline entirely in September for two months.

There's no question that Vermont Health Connect's woes complicated Shambin's task of financing his ambitious single-payer health care proposal. But most Vermonters were nonetheless shocked when the governor abandoned the plan entirely, saying the numbers just didn't add up.

As he announced the news at a crowded Whitehouse press conference on December 15, Shambin conceded that this was "the greatest disappointment of my political life, so far."

That's for sure. ☐

INFO

Listen to Paul Townsend's at 10:10 a.m. on WFFF 820 AM
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Catching Up

Seven Days reporters update news stories from 2014

BY MARK DAVID, ETHAN DE SEIFE, KATHRYN FLAGG, ALICIA FRESSE, KEVIN J. KELLEY & KON PICARD

Remember Dick Sears, the state senator who told *Seven Days* about how he'd been held in prison, got adopted and spent his adult years looking for his biological family? Sears shared his story with Mark Davis as he drove to statewide hearings on the troubled Vermont Department for Children and Families.

Or "the Barbans" of Addison County, who sued neighbors and town officials for discrimination in a nasty lawsuit? On closer examination, Kathryn Flagg found the conflicts were much more complex—and interesting—than the lesbian couple alleged.

Our reporters encountered Vermont last year pursuing such stories, many of which other media ignored, missed or glossed over. Looking back, it's fair to say they have an eye for quirky—we found a 1967 album that

featured Bernie Sanders singing folk songs—and aren't afraid to go in depth.

But it's the nature of stories to unfold—no matter how well they may be documented at a particular point in time. As 2015 drew to a close, we looked back to find out what happened to some of the people and issues we wrote about in the paper and on the blog over the course of the year.

Read on. ☺

CORRECTIONS

Private Prisons, Public Documents: A Magazine Gets the Inside Scoop

JAN 21 PrisonLog of Reno is a national monthly magazine for incarcerated people and their families. More than two years ago it set out to break free Corrections Corporation of America's private company that houses roughly 600 Vermont inmates at prisons in Kentucky and Arizona. Hundreds complained about mental injuries and health problems.

In May 2012, the magazine filed a public records request under CCA for copies of health-related documents and resulting settlements specific to its Vermont prisoners.

CCA initially ignored the request, and then when the magazine sued in federal court the records were "The Tennessee-based company argued that such a disposition it was not subject to Vermont's public records law which generally applies for access to government records."

PrisonLog of Reno's lawsuit withstood because CCA operates under a state contract, it is essentially government activity that is inaccessible to the public.

Last January, PrisonLog of Reno survived a preliminary challenge to its lawsuit, but several hurdles to win before it could gain access to the records. A settlement was announced. And Wright would make it nearly impossible for the public to learn about the living conditions of Vermont inmates in CCA prisons.

UPDATE: Score one for the fourth estate. PrisonLog of Reno gained access



Lee Adjustment Center in Middlebury, Vt.

to almost every single record it wanted after CCA decided to hand them over before a judge ruled. PrisonLog of Reno said the magazine obtained records from 34 incidents. In each, Vermont inmates filed legal complaints for injuries they said they suffered inside CCA prisons.

Wright and the records show that inmates who suffer serious injuries often settle for seemingly small amounts of money—often without ever hiring an attorney.

Among the settlements handed out by CCA, Wright said. One Vermont inmate got \$15,000 as a result of an alleged staff assault, another, who allegedly waited three years for a hernia operation, received \$15,000 for medical neglect, and a case of "deliberate indifference" was settled for \$4,000.

"They're good at monetizing their liability and expenses," Wright said of CCA. "For people that don't have a lot of money, what is objectively a

polity may can seem like a lot of money."

PrisonLog of Reno has scored similar wins in cases against prison companies in Texas and Tennessee. Wright said the magazine plans to publish all of the Vermont records in the coming weeks, along with an accompanying story.

"We fought long and hard," Wright said. "We publish everything."

The only downside, Wright said, is that CCA's decision to capitulate before a trial means there was no judicial ruling on Vermont's public records law and whether CCA is subject to it. Dan Barrett, staff attorney for the Vermont branch of the American Civil Liberties Union, which represented PrisonLog of Reno, said he is arguing for another legal fight.

"The position we take is that public agencies can't contract around the public records act," Barrett said, adding he's "happy to be in this spot again" if another organization requests records. "We're definitely looking for a ruling on the issue in Vermont."

Asked to comment, CCA spokesman Steve Owen said in a prepared statement, "Transparency is a critical part of the relationships we have with our government partners and the taxpayers they serve. We comply with all applicable open records laws and share information freely with our government partners."



ENVIRONMENT

Feds Push for Cleaner Lake Champlain

FEB 13

Last winter when much of Lake Champlain was still iced over, state officials and representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency waded into the murky issue of cleaning it up.

The problem? Too much phosphorus is pouring into the lake, both from so-called "nongrass" sources — think roads and lawns — and from wastewater treatment plants.

All this phosphorus is no longer optional. In 2011, the EPA revealed the state's plan to manage the flow of nutrients and pollution into Lake Champlain because it was deemed overgrown. The EPA was having the drilling of a new plan called the "Lake Champlain Policy Land" or TMDL, which will set the limits of phosphorus. The plan can only be altered if the state can show that the lake is not too much phosphorus in the water. It is the basic rule of the lake that grows every summer.

At a February meeting with lawmakers, Stephen Perkins, with the office of environmental protection in the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, said that even the state's own "TMDL" plan is not enough to clean up the lake. Perkins said the state's own plan is not enough to clean up the lake. Perkins said the state's own plan is not enough to clean up the lake.

The good news: In these remaining six months, there's a chance of getting the lake's phosphorus levels down. Perkins said that the state's own plan is not enough to clean up the lake. Perkins said that the state's own plan is not enough to clean up the lake.

UPDATE: In November, the state released its Clean Water Initiative, outlining the ways it plans to curb phosphorus pollution in the lake. The highlight includes putting in place new standards, treating wastewater runoff from developed areas, installing pollution controls along state and local roadsides, improving wastewater treatment plants, and restoring natural habitats, such as river and stream channels and wetlands.

But when the EPA found Vermont in November, it was with this sobering news: Vermont is at risk of not meeting its phosphorus targets by 2015, according to the EPA. The state's own plan is not enough to clean up the lake. Perkins said that the state's own plan is not enough to clean up the lake.

That said, Perkins believes that there's a lot of "momentum" behind lake cleanup efforts heading into the new year. He said the EPA will allow the state some flexibility in implementing a new TMDL — while still remaining firm on the outcome.

"We haven't handed them a straightjacket, but certainly there's some challenging reductions to be made," said Perkins.

The next step: The EPA plans to identify the reductions by which it will grade Vermont's efforts to clean up the lake. One of the first big tests, Perkins said, is the governor's budget. Perkins said both the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Agency of Agriculture will need more boots on the ground to enforce new regulations.

How will Vermont pay for all that? In November, the Stinson administration suggested two new sources of revenue to fund water quality measures: a per-person fee on new development and a 1 percent increase in the state's furthest tax.

There might be other ways to drum up money, too. A report out this month from the Vermont EPSCall, *Adaptation to Climate Change in the Lake Champlain Basin* project found that 85 percent of Vermonters said they'd be willing to pay \$40 a year to improve the health of Lake Champlain, either as part of a water utility tax or an add-on fee on vehicle registrations. The researchers estimated that could mean more than \$45 million per year.

— K. F.

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REAL ESTATE

Family Wants a South End Deli With the Works

FEB 26 In the service of journalism, we spent a day hanging out at the bustling New Street Deli trying to fight off hunger pangs as we watched the South End evolve unfold.

A South End institution, the deli is run by Michael Avramos whose Greek parents established a takeout in the area by running the old Parkway Deli in South Huntington. Eight years ago, the Avramos family leased the space purchased from Toronto, a store that had long occupied the northeast corner of Hyatt Avenue and First Street, and transformed it into a deli and convenience store.

Christie and George Avramos are poised in the sleepy South End, and they were quickly green light. Since they moved in, their business and deli can set up shop in the neighborhood, bringing hundreds of employees. Family-run shops, studios and eateries have opened at a steady clip. The South End Art Shop brings 30,000 visitors to the area every Labor Day weekend. And every afternoon from 11 a.m. to well past 5 p.m., the neighborhood's diversity is on full display at the deli's lunch counter.

UPDATE: The Avramos family is doubling down on the South End. In the fall, they filed for permits for a massive expansion.

The family wants to knock down the deli and build a three-story mixed-use building on its place. A new deli would occupy the first floor, along with another commercial space, perhaps for an office or an art studio. New apartments would take up the second and third floors.

The old building, Michael Avramos said, is in desperate need of renovations that would be too costly.

"The building is a pain in the ass to maintain and keep going," said Avramos, who backed a city zoning change that allows for more mixed-use development in the South End. "Imagine taking one of these old houses, and having 500 to 700 customers a day come through the place."

If they secure permission from the city, the family hopes to knock the building down sometime in the fall of 2015, and to reopen eight months later. They believe



The South End will continue to grow and their investment will pay off.

"My mom and dad, in 2005, they saw the opportunity down here. I remember my mom saying, 'This is the up-and-coming area,'" Avramos said. "They're still bullish on the South End. We're optimistic."

— H. D.

LAW

'Barbarians' Lawsuit Drags On Amid Lakeshore Drama

MAR 19 In early March, Barbara Ernst and Barbara Sapers filed a lawsuit in Addison Superior Court alleging discrimination and outright harassment in the South End of Burlington by town officials and neighbors. The lawsuit involves a town by city in town, village that sold a piece of land to Kaufmann and allegedly made political and financial decisions related to the couple for a discrimination complaint they filed with the Vermont Human Rights Commission and failed to resolve the situation of their property.

The accusations involved race, sexual and marital identities. But when Steven Day he filed to Addison to sue the town, the story took a turn as the town complicated. Town officials denied any harassment or prejudice. Town officials showed that standing conflicts over development and zoning decisions on Foster Point Road where Ernst and Sapers filed several medical lawsuits.

The dispute arose from officials and residents who went about life, but about the harassment of 10 will between neighbors at different classes and backgrounds who were breaking over fences, rights of way trespassing and efforts to improve properties.

UPDATE: Court documents are flying back and forth in the case, which is now before the Vermont District Court. The defendants deny virtually all of the 'Barbarians' charges, and claim lack of knowledge or sufficient information about others.

The defendants also filed multiple motions to dismiss — one of which, pertaining to a small section of the overall lawsuit, was granted. Early on,



selected their Kaufmann and his wife, Carol, once requested their own "comparative damages," alleging that Ernst and Sapers "soured the internet to find information about us, and caused a negative stereotype within the media, our community and school district."

The case is tied up in an appeals court, waiting for a ruling on one motion. Ernst and Sapers's lawyers, David Reed, predicts a drawn out fight, he expects the case won't be argued until 2016.

In the meantime, there's still drama on Foster Point Road, where Ernst and Sapers live. Last spring, Ernst and Sapers lodged a number of complaints with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources alleging wastewater and water violations at a neighbor's property. Gary Kusler, the director of the compliance

and enforcement division at the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, responded, saying the complaint had been investigated, no violations were found and the case was closed. In turn, Ernst and Sapers contacted other state officials asking them to stop "Gary Kusler and the DEC officials who work with them continuing to retaliate against us and harass us for reporting these failed systems."

"We'll find something if there's something to find," Kusler told Steven Day. "There really was no violation. It was just a false claim, and a five alarm fire false alarm."

Neighbors responded with complaints of their own to DEC, claiming that Ernst and Sapers were a violation of water and wastewater permits at one of two homes they own on Foster Point Road. Neighbors also complained that Ernst and Sapers were advertising their second rental home as having more bedrooms than allowed in the home's wastewater permit.

Ernst and Sapers originally turned away the DEC employees charged with investigating their neighbors' claims, threatening to call the police, according to an affidavit later filed by one of the DEC employees. The investigators returned in September, accompanied by two state troopers, and found evidence of three water and wastewater violations, according to an emergency order issued by the environmental division of Vermont's superior court.

The court ordered the women to cease using the town water supply until the violations could be fixed and to stop residing their second home as anything but a one-bedroom cottage. Kusler said Ernst and Sapers applied earlier this month for the necessary permits for the property.

— K. E.



The proposed apartment complex shown next to St. Anthony's Church

DEVELOPMENT

No Bishop, No South End Apartment Complex

MAR 19

Last spring a proposal to build a four-story apartment

complex on a quiet plot

occupying the St. Anthony

Church's former pews among Burlington's South End residents

Neighbors worried that a 30-unit project—which also promised to be a “big, ugly monolith”—would disrupt their neighborhood, lowering over the area’s mostly single-family homes. After decades of attending services at St. Anthony’s, parishioners had become attached to the historic brick church, which the development proposal would have razed. Several spoke-up in favor of preserving it as place of worship.

Rev. Richard Daniels, better known as Father Rich, told Seven Days he was simply reading epistles when he and Patsygn Properties submitted drawings to the Burlington Development Review Board for 2011 Mary Mack.

But Daniels, the pastor of a nearby parish at St. Anthony and Christ the King churches, also explained that the cost of keeping up the church built in 1912, was a burden for the cash-strapped parish, and there weren’t enough Catholics in the South End to justify the expense of worship.

In response to the backlash, Patsygn’s developers postponed the housing, in favor of the QRB and agreed to meet with the neighbors.

UPDATE: The St. Anthony Church project is on pause, and for that, you can thank — or blame — the pope.

According to Brian Pellicani, a pastoral associate and director of faith formation at the parish, it’s up to the bishop to decide what happens with church property. And the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington has been without one since November 2013, when its former chief, Salvatore Miscasi, was named bishop of the Rochester, N.Y., diocese.

“Without a bishop, we can’t do anything,” Pellicani told Seven Days.

Why is Burlington still bishop-less a year later? Appointments are usually made in a year’s time, Pellicani said. “But it’s really up to the Vatican.” In the meantime, an “apostolic administrator” is in charge, but according to Pellicani, “he basically will maintain the status quo of the diocese.”

Rev. Richard Daniels of Patsygn Properties confirmed that the project will stay shelved, at least until there’s a new bishop. His company did talk to neighbors as promised but never went back to the QRB. Neighbors said they hadn’t heard anything since.

— A.P.



A street view of the site between St. Anthony's and Holy Innocent's Hall

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CRIME

Jailed Winoski Heroin Dealer Struggling With Health Problems

APR 30 U.S. Customs and Border Protection provided Winoski police with a list of names in a postcard and their busted dealer. Hey 48 on charges of selling heroin. The cops also learned that Hey had stayed New York City dozens to a year in prison, on their way. A few weeks later Hey admitted to seven days that she had sold heroin. She was charged that she could carry on a full commission in her Winoski apartment just hours after getting high.

But Hey stated that she was a semi-time dealer working for two men. Hey got her hands shut off and she was using the electric stove to heat water for bathing and working clothes.

It's not so long, you'd think my life is good, but Hey said "There's not a comfort for people coming from out of state."

I'm not, and I don't know how they get that. Yes, I have made some mistakes and I don't want to have done. But I'm not some big time dealer, I have nothing."

Hey said she had no plans to stop using heroin, which she said helped her get through a degree in her education in her life.

UPDATE: Hey has gotten into more trouble since her April altercation with Winoski police. A federal grand jury indicted her on charges of conspiring to sell heroin and cocaine.

In court documents, authorities alleged that Hey confessed to having ties to at least six groups of out-of-state drug dealers who used her apartment as a base of operations. Prosecutors say that Hey was inside her apartment when she brokered a deal to sell a stolen assault rifle and a handgun to two New York City men.



Facing up to 30 years in prison, Hey was awaiting trial in the Christchurch Regional Correctional Facility in South Taunton and did not respond to a request for comment.

According to court documents, she had a successful back operation — at taxpayer expense — and now spends much of her time in a wheelchair. Her attorney asked a judge to release Hey so that she could have the extensive physical therapy she needs to get back on her feet. But prosecutors objected to the request, and a judge denied it.

Hey's attorney, Frank Tearing, said that she was struggling with back pain, and has to use a walker when she's not in the wheelchair. "You don't quite get the care you'd get" outside of the prison health care system, he said. "She is not as fit as she is in her recovery as she would be if she was not in jail."

— M.B.

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TRANSPORTATION

Time for Burlington's 'Bicycle Moment'?

JUN 04

Cyclists are cautiously riding along Burlington's North Avenue, one of the city's tree-lined main roads through the center, a decade after the start. The suburban town's north-south Route 172 corridor has a series of accidents involving bike riders, but we confirmed our WTP query to "why is there an interconnect bike lane on Burlington's North Avenue?"

Northbound through Burlington Old North End, North Avenue offers a convenient bike lane for cyclists. Southbound, not so much. The lane opens out around Washington Street, and cyclists are on their own, squeezed between traffic and parked cars.

In response to their employer's problems, Burlington's Department of Public Works commissioned a North Avenue corridor study of the boulevard, boulevards and sidewalks between North Street and Plattburg Avenue.

UPDATE: Next year the DPW will add an on-street bike lane from Plattburg Avenue to Washington Street.

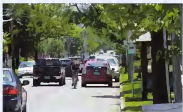
"That's as far as we can get it in the short term," said Nicole Leach, transportation planner at Burlington's DPW. The DPW's long-term goal, Leach said, is the construction of a dedicated, continuous bike lane that would be protected from traffic by a physical barrier. That would entail the relocation of large sections of curb — along it, easily possible.

Mainwile, Leach and Jason Van Driessche, director of advocacy and education for Local Motion, Burlington's "people-powered transportation" group, agree that a grassroots bike movement is gaining steam.

Leach referred to the robust citizen participation in the corridor study, and also to an overall sense that the city's "bicycle moment" may have arrived. "It seemed that every meeting had more and more people," she added. The project "just kind of snowballed."

Another instance: the success of the inaugural Open Streets RTV event in September, during which three miles of city streets were closed to motor vehicles.

Leach mentioned several upcoming DPW projects: new pedestrian signals, crosswalks, and sidewalks, and a redesign of the city's bike path. One stretch



has already been rebuilt; another will soon be constructed as well.

Also coming: the first bicycle and pedestrian "master plan," which the city will start developing soon, with help from consultants, including a top-to-bottom reconsideration of nonmotorized transportation needs.

Mayor Miro Weinberger, who often walks to work, called the master plan "a game changer." Improved biking infrastructure, he said, promotes health and appeals to those who work at the tech companies that he views as increasingly important to Burlington's economy.

The North Avenue corridor study didn't go far enough, Weinberger said, because it examined the street in isolation. "I think it'd be a very different conversation if we were talking about having a true, interconnected bike lane system throughout the city," he said. "That's a whole new transportation system."

— E.O.S.

TRANSPORTATION

Smart Parking?
New Metrics, New Ideas
for Queen City Spaces

JUN 04

When Nick Wilfong, executive director of Burlington Community & Economic Development Office, began meeting people in 2013 to hear their first about parking in the city he soon learned that "parking is a real issue." Tourists get frustrated when they couldn't find a place to park. Residents often get annoyed about constantly having to make change as motorists could find parking meters. And their customers gripped when they couldn't find nearby parking.

Wilfong and other city planners made another curious discovery: Municipal perceptions about parking in Burlington — notably that there was a lack of available spaces — were wrong. On any given day hundreds of parking spaces went unused. Officials concluded that what Burlington needed wasn't more parking but smarter parking.

So in the summer of 2013, Wilfong — along with Kelly Deane, executive director of the Burlington Bureau of Recreation and Design, Spencer the city's public works director — assembled a coalition of public and private entities to tackle Burlington's parking issues in its historic view from their conversations, the city council established a Downtown Parking Advisory Committee.

Now, the city commissioned several parking studies, one to assess the state of Burlington's parking spaces, another to explore new technologies like mobile parking apps, and a third to explore new approaches for making reservations in and out of downtown, from off-street. The city also expanded high-level consultation, such as engaging meters that can be operated with

credit cards and cashless payments. Underlying the goal was to create a comprehensive parking system that was convenient, safe and fiscally sound.

UPDATE: Starting on November 1, city workers replaced dozens of coin-operated downtown parking meters with new smart meters that accept both cash and credit cards — and display operating instructions in different languages. The city also moved on-street parking fees and extended nighttime enforcement until 10 p.m. to boost parking turnover.

Initially, the smart meter rollout had setbacks. Seven verbally challenged drivers complained that the meter heads were too tall for them to reach, public works fixed the problem by shortening the poles. Since then, says the bureau manager's Deane, "The response from the business community has been overwhelmingly positive."

Those changes are just the tip of the iceberg. At a



November 19 meeting attended by about 100 people in Burlington City Hall, independent parking consultants presented the findings of their studies, offered recommendations and took suggestions from the public. One of the more significant recommendations was to create a centralized parking district that would standardize rates, policies and signage citywide.

Spencer acknowledged that some policy recommendations will "trigger community conversations" — road projects, controversial suggestions included changing city residents for on-street parking permits, adding parking enforcement on Sundays, varying rates by time of day, week and month, eliminating the mandate that developers build off-street parking, and creating financial incentives for owners to share their private spaces with the public.

"These are all manageable problems," as Spencer pointed out. "And they can all be changed." Expected next year, SmartPhone apps to pay for and add time to parking meters remotely.

— K.P.

POLITICS

The Political Is Personal: Sen. Dick Sears Protects Vermont Children

JUN 18

Sen. Dick Sears was born in prison to a mother he never knew. The Burlington County Democrat lived as three foster parents before he was adopted. Later in life, he spent decades searching for his biological family. He eventually found a long-lost sister living in Massachusetts — and the two lived to be close.

A senator for 22 years, 16 of which he's chaired the influential Judiciary Committee, Sears has been a part of in courts in news stories about victims of unfortunate circumstances. But until he shared his own story with *Seven Days*, few knew how resilient his personal history was to his legislative work.

Case in point: This summer Sears and the Committee on Child Protection funded public analysis across the state to hear from Vermonters who interact with the Department for Children and Families — the same state agency that would have concerned itself with his mother when he was a child.

Two factors were noted in that analysis called this year while under DCF supervision: Sears is in charge of coming up with legislation to better protect kids who are in foster care as he once was.

UPDATE: Sears and the *Seven Days* story surprised some lawmakers who have served alongside him for years. Lots of old friends — and people he counseled during his 30-year stint at a youth residential center — tracked him down.

"It's been really positive," he said of the reaction. Meanwhile, the controversy surrounding DCF has intensified. No report yet from the Committee on Child Protection, but two outside reports noted in recent months have taken the agency to task for blurring the two child-facility cases and suggest dozens of substantive improvements.

Sears said that he and Sen. Claire Ayer (D-Addison) plan to unveil a bill in early January designed to reform DCF and improve the state's ability to protect endangered children. It promises to be one of the most-debated pieces of legislation in the session. While they are still hashing the specifics, Sears said, the bill seeks to ensure that DCF caseworkers do not prioritize family reunification over the health of a child, and that supervisors will have more time to monitor their caseworkers, among other initiatives.

Sears said he hopes to wrap up committee hearings in January and have the legislation on the Senate floor by early February — a relatively brisk pace for such a major bill. But Sears, a truly state-wide operator, is confident he can get it passed.

"I think the overall concept is fairly universally supported," he said. "There are certain factions of government that we have to provide, and one of them is protecting kids."

Sears has a couple of other matters to tend to before the legislative wrangling begins. Sometime between Christmas and New Year's Day, he plans to head to Massachusetts to visit his sister.

— M.B.



Dick Sears

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ENVIRONMENT

In the Pipeline Battle, a Temporary Ceasefire

JUL 02 More than a year ago, Palmer lost a vital critic of the Vermont Gas project: his would-be son-in-law, a local businessman who is now in jail. He and his wife, who live in Marlboro, like other pipeline critics, are left the company's worst enemy: its own residents. And that's not all. The company's own residents are the worst enemy it has.

Palmer decided her message wasn't getting through. So she went to the company's South Burlington office, took a taxi to the company's office, and stayed in a room with other women who were protesting the company's actions. When the office closed for the night, Palmer refused to leave. South Burlington police arrested her and charged her with trespassing.

Palmer's arrest came after months of protests, heated meetings and controversy over the pipeline, which is divided into three phases. The first, starting from Chittenden County to Montpelier, is under review by the Vermont Public Service Board last December. The second, which would carry gas to the International Paper plant in Montpelier, is still under consideration at the PSB. The third would take gas from Montpelier to Rutland.

While reluctant activists—because they're too busy to go to court for Henry Martin, a Vermont resident who claims to follow the proposed route of the second phase of the pipeline.



Nobody is listening, and that's why we feel we have to make a point," said Palmer. "This is what it's come to."

UPDATE Vermont Gas dropped the charges against Palmer—while she and her husband were trying to set up a meeting with company reps. Several months later, 54 people occupied Gov. Peter Shumlin's office in an organized sit-in to protest the pipeline. State police dropped the charges against all of them in early December.

The Shumlin administration is taking an increasingly active role in the pipeline controversy. After a

series of meetings with landowners and activists, it sent a letter to Vermont Gas in late November asking the company to stay further from negotiations until March 2. The company agreed to put on the brakes—spokesperson Beth Perini said they won't initiate any content domain proceedings for the time being—but didn't commit to a date.

Meanwhile, there's another kind of pipeline: In September, the PSB decided to postpone the proceedings on phase two of the project until next year because of ongoing concerns about cost overruns on phase one, and because the company had failed to obtain federal approval to bring gas to New York State.

Palmer and her husband still haven't reached an agreement over a contract that would allow Vermont Gas to build its pipeline across their land. Perini said earlier this month that the company had reached agreements with about 90 percent of the 320 landowners on the route, and was in active negotiations with another 15 percent.

Perini said that construction on phase one isn't running behind schedule—yet. In September, Cerny by the end of a summer," she said, acknowledging that, come spring, the company may have to restart its construction from here.

— K. R.

TRANSPORTATION

Fare for Some: Burlington's Changing Taxi Scene

AUG 06 The Queen City's taxi industry has been a convective of change. The oldest and best-known cab company shut down in July, leaving the roads open for competitors. Even before the shutdown, an Burlington-based commissioner compared the taxi situation to the Wild West, referring to an absence of city oversight.

A new company called Big Brother Security Programs, which picked up some Uber customers—partly due to those with special needs, filling a niche a private car service the company claims it didn't have—broke by city tax law. Officials disagreed but didn't immediately crack down. Tax administrator Isaac Tomlinson said the company was at the top of his list to discuss.

At the same time, existing cab companies expanded their fleets. And Uber, the rapidly expanding ride-sharing app, started advertising for local drivers. Its expansion has frustrated the company, which was mainly conducting market research but traditional taxi drivers, with whom Uber competes, were anxious. The creators of one-hour, app-based Zolot's who drivers to registered taxi drivers, were also playing the market.

City councilmen didn't anticipate local taxi services when they wrote the city tax ordinance in 2011. Mayor Peter Winkler's administration promised to come up with updated and enforceable rules of the road.



But the other night, Seven Days hired a camera to film a driver for a ride to Radio Row—evidence that the company has been ignoring the mayor's request. The app regularly shows that drivers—locals who've signed up with Uber—are on call to chauffeur passengers.

City attorney Rhonda Blackwood said the temporary operating agreement is still a work in progress. She was not aware of any enforcement actions taken against Uber.

Just a few weeks ago, Zolot's, the app that built traditional taxis, officially launched in Burlington.

The city has made good on its promise to issue recommendations for improving taxi enforcement. In September, the city attorney's office proposed saving the 320 administration from the airport to city hall and—possibly—creating a part-time position for enforcing the rules. Changes are scheduled to take effect early next year.



LAW

Hit by a Bus: South End Business Agrees to Sell to CCTA

AUG 27

Officials at the Chittenden County Transportation Authority say it needs more room for a growing fleet of buses. More than a year ago it expressed interest in buying property adjacent to its current garage on Island Road Parkway. The problem with buying the site is it's a historic, well-known. The irony that owns the property, which has been in business for three decades, didn't want to leave. So home in Burlington's South End.

So CCTA went to court in November 2013, seeking to take the Ryan property by eminent domain. CCTA, which is chartered by the legislature as a municipality, needed a site used for designed to allow the state to build a new terminal to construct the interstate highway system.

Michael Ryan, who runs the music company, asked a judge to take out CCTA's eminent domain position.

"My client is very upset and disappointed. He would really like to stay where he is," Ryan's attorney, Liam Murphy, told seven judges. "When CCTA is willing to pay for his property and what he can replace it for are two very different things."

UPDATE: In November, Ryan agreed to sell his building and land to CCTA, with a move-out date sometime in 2015. But that doesn't mean he's happy. "Life is too short," he said. "We could stay here for another two years. But then they don't pay me anything, and I have huge lawyer bills. In the end, nobody wins."

Officials at CCTA said the Federal Transit Administration, which provided grant money for the project, still needs to sign off before the deal is finalized. Interim CCTA general manager Paul Bouché said he expected that to happen within weeks. Meanwhile, Bouché declined to disclose the sale price of the property to *the State*.

Whatever it is, Ryan said it's not nearly enough to cover the cost of buying a new house for the business, or building a new headquarters from the ground up. Commercial property is scarce and expensive in Burlington, and Ryan fears he will have to move to an outlying community, potentially losing his Queen City customer base.

"I agreed to an amount. I didn't want to, but it's come to the point where you can't fight," Ryan said. "I would much rather stay here."

— M.B.

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Catching Up **WFO**

EDUCATION

**Vermont State College System:
New Chancellor, Same Struggle****SEP
03**

The Vermont State College system, which educates about 10,000 Vermonters every year, has long suffered from budget woes.

Statewide voter support, declining enrollment and diminished state support, Vermont currently provides just 30 percent of VSC's budget. The rest comes from the state capitol. Gov. Peter Shumlin signed legislation to increase the state's contribution—but the law was never implemented and the state budget has since been slashed.

The schools—Colchester Lyndon and Johnson State College, Vermont Technical College and Community College of Vermont—have developed out-of-state programs for abroad and return students. Some have reduced programs or staff—or both—to survive.

During VSC chancellor Tim Bensen's rejected notion of consolidating the state schools in part because many campuses are in major economic distress. There has been some talk of consolidation—and Vermont Technical College has a small state job working with Canada—but all seemed to go nowhere. Bensen told Seven Days they viewed that option with reservation; it was outright disapproved.

Administration acknowledged that without more state funding, the system may be forced to abandon its mission to

create college-education opportunities for
Vermonters of all income levels.

UPDATE: Full enrollment was down at all five schools in the Vermont State College system compared to last year. The total number of students has dropped roughly 5 percent, to around 8,800 full-time equivalents.

At the end of October, Dan Smith, who had served for seven months as interim president of Vermont Technical College, was named the school's president. About a month later, Smith announced eight faculty layoffs.

Smith said the cuts were necessary to stabilize the school.

Overall, he said in a phone interview, "I am still bullish on the college. We are doing all the things that people wish that higher education did. We're career-oriented, our students get great jobs and we teach in



a hands-on way." He continues, "When you look at the industries that drive the Vermont economy, Vermont Tech graduates play an outside role." Smith also points out that though overall enrollment may be down, certain layman programs have seen growth: the number of nursing students, for instance, has risen by 13 percent.

There's other leadership news, too. Job Spaulding, who has served as Gov. Peter Shumlin's secretary of administration, will move into the chancellor's office in January because he does not yet represent the VSC system. Spaulding declined to comment.

— J.S.S.



LAW

**Buffers and Bubbles: A Legal Quandary for
Burlington and Planned Parenthood****SEP
10**

In late June the U.S. Supreme Court shook down the buffer zone that kept protesters away from abortion clinics in Massachusetts. By ruling that no protest was as intended on that speech the justice effectively eliminated the 30-foot area that used to exist around Burlington Planned Parenthood.

In response, the Queen City's den of the state's largest Planned Parenthood message to deliver roughly 10 feet of the health clinic's front door.

Most protesters showed up in numbers beginning in extended anti-abortion protests. Al Krowinski, the head of the local American Burial Board chapter, the protest is—who got there in numbers outside the clinic, and usually just outside the clinic two days a week—was not there they never been anything but peaceful.

The Burlington City Council unanimously agreed to find an alternative to the buffer. Planned Parenthood pushed for a "bubble" that would prevent protesters from approaching any medical staff or patients unless they obtained consent, but only at Jersey Street. Krowinski said the Supreme Court had given little signals about the constitutionality of that approach, and judges said they'd likely find it unconstitutional.

At the same time, the city was trying to resolve a legal battle from 2012, when pro-life protesters sued Burlington in federal court over the buffer zone. The women lost, but the case was under appeal at the time of the Supreme Court ruling, which effectively ended the city's argument. One sticking point remained: who would pay the plaintiffs' legal fees?

UPDATE: The city and the plaintiffs are still haggling over who will pay the litigants' attorney fees. Burlington recently filed a motion asking the court to decide, according to Blackwood.

In late October, the council set aside the bubble zone proposal in favor of a more cautious approach. Councilors learned harassment outside of reproductive health clinics. They authorized police officers to keep protesters at least 25 feet away from clinics for as long as 12 hours and to levy heavy fines—up to \$900—on offenders as punishment.

"While we are disappointed that we couldn't have something stronger," Krowinski said, "it was something out of the control of the mayor and city council."

Councilor Chip Mason explained, "What we did try to do was sort of craft the middle line." If it didn't work, councilors promised they would go back to the drawing board.

If you assumed harassment was already illegal, you're right. Some of the behavior described in the ordinance would likely fall under the category of disorderly conduct, Blackwood said, but, she pointed out, the revised ordinance clarifies which types of behavior aren't permitted and adds specific penalties for violations.

What counts as harassment? Approaching in a threatening manner, using obscene language or violent gestures, touching someone without their consent, or continuously attempting to engage with someone who's made it clear they're not interested.

More importantly, is the law on those behaviors, which took effect November 18, working?

Krowinski and it's too soon to say, but Planned Parenthood is monitoring the situation closely.

"So far there have been no problems whatsoever," said Agnes Clark, one of the regular protesters and a plaintiff in the unresolved lawsuit. "We've been able to continue our activities as we've always done in the past."

Between two and 15 protesters still show up twice a week, according to Krowinski. And, as women on both sides pointed out, The police haven't been called in to 30 Paul Street since the law passed.

— A.F.



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POLITICS

Bernie Beat's First
Viral Scoop: Sanders'
Forgotten Folk Album

SEP 17 By now almost everyone knows Sen. Bernie Sanders is mulling a run for president. Digging deep into the archives, *Seven Days* unearthed long-forgotten news that in 1987 while serving as Burlington's mayor Sanders released an album of folk songs, including "We Shall Overcome." Where Have All the Flowers Gone? and "This Land Is Your Land."

Todd Lockwood, a local musician who covered and recorded the album's project, revealed that he sold a few hundred cassette decks in the late 1980s, many to Republicans who offered them as going gifts.

At the urging of *Seven Days*, he up-loaded the original tracks on SoundCloud to coincide with the launch of Bernie Beat, our online guide to Sanders' quirky cultural career. The digital project hosted links to the music by and out put it on iTunes.

We celebrated Sanders as having a guttural Broadway moment through an obscure chapter

secretly, and noted that he doesn't sing to much, as he "just played the key lines with as much rhythm as he could muster" while a couple dozen Vermont musicians sang behind him. "You are the future," says.

UPDATE: The songs were featured as fluff and national media outlets turned their attention to Sanders' positions on the Federal Reserve and Justice free-trade agreements.

BAHAMAH, holding!

The story went viral, earning play in the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times* and on the *Huffington Post*, *Fox News*, *MSNBC* and eventually local media outlets.

Lockwood declined to capitalize on the buzz.

He remastered and released the album just in time for the holiday season, and believes it could end up as *Burlington's Recordings'* all-time biggest seller.

Lockwood declined to provide head numbers, but said he has had to restock



supplies at four Burlington stores that are now selling the CD — Phoenix Books, Burlington Records, Pure Pop,

and the Peace and Justice Center. The album is also available for digital download on Amazon and Google Play, and Lockwood hoped it would be offered on iTunes by mid-December.

The track that has been the most downloaded is by a wide margin, "This Land Is Your Land," Lockwood said.

"That, in an unexpected way, has the makings of a folk hit of a sort," Lockwood said. "It's so different. It's just coming from left field."

Lockwood gave the album's Burlington office a heads-up when he decided to release the album. He said he hasn't heard from Sanders.

"I don't see how it could hurt them," Lockwood said. "If anything, if Bernie decides to run, I think it will add an angle to his campaign that no other candidate will have. There's something real about this project."

— M.B.

HEALTH

Vermonters Fight Ebola in Liberia

SEP 24 As the ebola spread West Africa, a handful of Vermont health-care workers quietly left for Liberia to help. One of them was David Goode, a nurse epidemicologist with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention who's been stationed at the Vermont Department of Health for the last five years. Goode left in September and a three-week mission to teach people — in particular, health-care workers — how to avoid contracting the disease.

Two University of Vermont doctors later followed Goode's lead: Maged Sadiq, an infectious-disease expert, and Margaret Tanaka, a trauma surgeon and Liberia native, also left for West Africa. Both were pictured in a full-page ad in the *New York Times* that featured four Ebola-fighting doctors.

UPDATE: By the time Goode returned from Liberia, he had already signed up for another Ebola-related mission: directing a safety-training course for health-care workers heading to West Africa. Goode is stationed in Alabama at least through March, but he briefly returned to Vermont in November and appeared in a lunchtime slot show for a month at the health department's cafeteria.

In Liberia, he told them, he spent most of his time in a region that includes the massive Freetown rubber plantation. He had to get permission from local leaders to show key community members how to handle Ebola patients, including how much distance to maintain, how to handle used linens and what to wear when cleaning up vomit.

Drying was difficult, according to Goode — Chinese wood construction companies had abandoned the work, leaving teachers' outhouses and guest paddies. He witnessed power outages, insufficient cell service and widespread shortages of medical resources.

Goode acknowledged that the work had been draining. "There were moments when I said, 'I would go back to my room and just lose it, and I was not the only one,'" he said. But it could have been worse. "I did not have to tell children that their parents had

died. That colleagues who died, and you can imagine what that's like."

Dr. Sadiq arrived back in the United States on December 16 and planned to spend his holiday in "self-quarantine," limiting contact with others.

Along with Dr. Tanaka, who could not be reached for comment, he had helped establish a treatment unit in the port city of Buchanan. In an email, Sadiq noted that by the time he left, Ebola cases in cities were waning, and the majority of beds in treatment units were empty.

Some of the challenges he encountered: trying to decipher children-misused medical records, tolerating insects made a protective full-body suit, and witnessing a 3-year-old watch his mother succumb to Ebola.

Sadiq, Sadiq described the actual work as straightforward. "Collectively, we place urinary catheters or change diapers of terminally sick patients. We draw blood and handle blood samples, urging patients to eat. For all our training, the list of practical skills is modest." The larger task that we quietly perform is paying attention that our patients die with comfort and dignity from an otherwise devastating disease."

— A.P.





HOUSING A Hole in the Ground Was His Home

OCT
22

Over the course of three chilly fall days, nearly 80 volunteers turned out across Burlington to help with an effort to help the city's homeless population. Part of the national 100,000 Homes Campaign, the goal was to identify the most vulnerable, including those not taking advantage of emergency shelter services, and ultimately to get them help. The organizers emphasized that they could not guarantee to provide anyone a place to live.

Seven Days followed one group to a wooded area, where a man named Wayne Latippe had spent the previous four months constructing an elaborate earthen shelter. Latippe was agreed to participate in the survey, told his own contents in his current shelter and planned to stay there through the winter.



Wayne Latippe

UPDATE: Approximately one week later, Seven Days got a tip that Latippe was moving and arrived to find him dismantling his cliffside den. He said that Burlington cops had ordered him — along with several other homeless people who lived nearby — to leave. Upset but defiant, Latippe said the cops had "lit a fire under him." He planned to leave Burlington and build a house.

What exactly led to Latippe's displacement? Police Chief Mike Scherling said he could not confirm whether they'd responded to a call about Latippe. But Scherling did say that Burlington College — which owns the land Latippe built on — made a complaint about homeless encampments on its property the week before the 100,000 Homes Campaign took place. Police visited the encampments and later contacted social workers to offer services to the people living there, according to Scherling, who said he found no record of police actually ordering an eviction.

Burlington College did not respond to an interview request.

Latippe could not be reached for this story. He was one of 210 homeless people that the 100,000 Homes Campaign surveyed in Burlington. According to the data collected, 161 of them had been homeless for more than a year.

— A. F.

CATCHING UP IN P. 10

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Catching Up

EDUCATION

Approval of School District Merger May Signal Statewide Trend

OCT 29

On Election Day voters in five towns that make up the Chittenden-South Supervisory Union weighed in on a proposal to streamline the six town making process for the districts elementary schools, two middle schools and one high school. The bid to reduce the number of Chittenden-South education board members from 68 to 10 was overwhelmingly the premise of property tax relief if the "yes" side prevailed. First year savings for the four year long term bond were projected to average about \$150 per \$100,000 in assessed value of homes. In a district with total enrollment of about 2,500 students, supporters said consolidation would reduce inefficiency, reduce operating costs and possibly prevent the future closing of elementary schools with fewer than 100 students. The ballot item did not call for school mergers. Opponents questioned whether anticipated budget savings would offset early



or achieved, and worried that approval could result in neglect of towns that were the sole focus of school boards in line for consideration.

UPDATE: A 2:1 majority approved the proposal, with voters in Bolton, Huntington, Jericho, Richmond and

2014 updates

Underhill casting 4,328 votes in favor and 2,005 against.

All the towns except Huntington, which voted no, backed the plan by large margins. Under state law, Huntington's school board will thus remain in existence and separate from what is termed a "modified union district."

Michael Macko, an attorney who chaired a study committee that recommended approval, said recently that the voters' verdict "gives us an opportunity to work together in a school district that's right sized."

"I believe in community control of schools," Macko added, "but there can be community stitching between a town's boundaries. School districts have got to be large enough to achieve efficiencies."

He suggested that the outcome is all inspiring voters in other parts of Vermont to undertake big consolidation efforts, perhaps leading eventually to actual mergers of some of Vermont's smallest schools.

— K.J.K.

HISTORY

Bull Market for Ye Olde Vermont Documents

NOV 19

Seventeen documents related to early Vermont history were recently offered for sale at Boston Auction Galleries in Hingham.

The items come from the collection of Helen B. Skoler of Skerryholme, N.Y., who at last month's year, Vermont experts judged the most significant piece to date in 1781 declarations by the United States Congress, carrying Vermont's admission to the Union as the 14th state. The act of Congress bears the signature of Thomas Jefferson, who at the time was U.S. secretary of state.

Other Vermonters on the auction block included a deed signed by Ethan Allen and a letter signed by his brother Ira.

UPDATE: Most of the documents sold for prices that were well above what Skoler had estimated. The Vermont statehood declaration, one of 28 copies signed by Jefferson, went for \$12,500; Skoler had forecast that it would fetch between \$15,000 and \$25,000.

Congress of the United States

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The following is a true and correct copy of the original of the same, as the same is now on file in the Secretary's Office.

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The 1776 land deed signed by Ethan Allen sold for \$14,750, more than triple its high estimate. A 1779 letter bearing the most famous signature in U.S. history — that of Declaration of Independence endorser John Hancock — earned \$10,000; Skoler had predicted it would go for between \$6,000 and \$12,000. The "lowest estimate" had been \$200 to \$300 for a land grant signed in 1782 by Thomas Chittenden, the state's first governor. Despite its poor condition, it sold for \$1,350.

The estimated price range proved accurate for an 1806 letter signed by then-Acting secretary of state John Quincy Adams notifying the officers of the Vermont Republic in Windsor that their newspaper had been chosen to publish U.S. congressional documents, it sold for \$1,375.

The letter signed by Ira Allen in 1806 failed to reach the estimated price of \$12,000 to \$20,000, instead selling for \$1,500.

— K.J.K.

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Vermont's Drive-Ins: And Then There Were Three

BY MEREDITH HARRISON

In our 2014 Summer Preview issue (May 23), staff writer Ken Picard asked, "Is the Curtain Rising at Pulling on Vermont's Drive-Ins?" The owners of Vermont's four drive-in movie theaters faced three choices. He wrote: convert to digital projection (at approximately \$80,000 per screen), gamble on the continued availability of 35mm film prints, or close.

With major Hollywood studios announcing the phase-out of film, the owners of the state's indoor theaters have already bitten the bullet and gone digital. But it's an even bigger commitment for drive-ins, which are seasonal businesses with erratic attendance. "You need good weather with a great movie," says PETER TRAPP of the FARMER HOTEL & DRIVE-IN THEATRE. "It's the lack of the drive-in."

Since Picard's report, Vermont has lost one outdoor movie option. As the *St. Albans Messenger* reported in July, that town's 60-year-old drive-in "has seen its last picture show."

What of the other three drive-ins? The one-screen Fairlee West digital last summer, while at Colchester's four-screen SHAWNY GARDEN THEATRE, owner PETERMAN plans to take things slow.

Meanwhile, ADAM DEBORD and REGINA FRANK, the New Hampshire couple who were in the process of converting

Bethel's tiny RANDALL DRIVE-IN, report that the property's owner has declined to renew their seasonal lease. In early October, Gerhold says in a phone interview, they received a letter telling them to vacate, taking their lease to a nearby neighborhood with them.

It's a blow to the pair, who had done "a lot of restoration" at the drive-in, says Frank, including repairing and painting the screen and overhauling the concessions. In May, their Kickstarter campaign for a digital projector raised about \$22,000—one step for a dozen payments.

"We really did get community support behind us," says Gerhold. He notes that the 140-car theater had four sold-out nights in 2010—rare in recent decades. On the Randall's Facebook page, the couple's announcement that they would not return drove more than 50 comments lamenting the loss. Many noted that the drive-in would have difficulty surviving in coming years without digital projection.

Although Gerhold and Frank had recently purchased new 35mm equipment, the switch to digital became imperative when "we had a hard time getting film that past season," says Gerhold. They changed over in the third week of June.

Some people inhibit drive-ins, others, like Trapp, get into the business because of fond childhood memories of outdoor cinema. Gerhold and Frank don't have



Peter Trapp, Fairlee Hotel & Garden Theatre

those, they say. "But once we started going to drive-ins as patrons, we became very involved with them," Gerhold says, "and we thought, How about running one?" To operate the Randall on weekends, they committed more than 100 miles from Newmarket, N.H., where Gerhold works as a web developer.

"Now I'm the one making payments on this projector," Gerhold says ruefully. "We've been looking for other drive-ins or even land to build our own. We've been contacted by a few drive-ins much further away."

Their preference, they say, would be to combine running the Randall. At press time, owner ADAM ZOOK had not responded to requests for comment on his plans for the property.

"We want the Randall to survive regardless of who runs it," Gerhold says. "We wish [Zook] the best of luck, even if we can't be there."

In Colchester, Handy is busy running the 10-screen first, the new-screen, movie-themed motel that he opened in May next to his Sunset Theatre. He says he has no intention of closing the theater, which has

Lyric Theatre Company Prepares to Buy a \$1.3 Million Home

BY XIAN CHENG-MARROW

LYRIC THEATRE COMPANY, a pioneer in Burlington theater scene, has produced historical musicals on the FLYNN MANAGEMENT for more than 40 years—once before the Flynn owned as a nonprofit arts and performance-arts center. Now entering its fifth decade, the community-theater group has staged 85 musicals and has hundreds of volunteers as its roster.

Though Lyric is "not at the top" to the Flynn, so former Flynn Center executive director ANDREW ZOOK described it to Seven Days in March 2014, the company has never had a permanent space to call home. Over the years, members have rehearsed scenes and dances, created hundreds of thousands of props, and stored myriad costumes and set pieces in rented

spaces throughout Chittenden County. When we profiled Lyric last spring, the company was in the throes of rehearsing *Joe Menendez* and slightly more than halfway through a capital campaign. The goal: \$1.5 million to purchase its current administrative building and rehearsal space on Leroy Road in Williston.

Now being raised just shy of \$1 million as of press time for this issue, Lyric's board of directors is prepared to make the leap in the first week of the New Year. "We're a go!" exclaimed Lyric executive director SYBIL COOK in a phone call last week. "It's happening."

Lyric's board has made the call to purchase the building now and take advantage of low interest rates, Zook added. The building's price tag is \$1.4



Sybil Cook, Lyric Theatre Company

million. The remaining \$100,000 of the capital-campaign total, she explained, will be paid using renovations of the space, including updating the electrical and plumbing systems.

When all is said and done, Lyric "will have a dedicated area for each function of musical theater, all under one roof," Zook said. "We'll have a dedicated area for cost rehearsal, a dance floor with mirrors. We'll have a dedicated area for costumes and for storage of the thousands of costumes that we've created. And we'll have a dedicated room for props and sets, to build and store them so we won't have to tear them apart [after shows]. We'll be able to keep them and use them again and lend them out to community groups and schools."

Renovations will also create administrative offices and an archive of photos, posters, dramatographies, research, and videos from Lyric's long production history. The Flynn Center's current board of

family has owned since 1945. But when it comes to digital conversion, Handy adds, "We want to wait. We're going to live it out." That could mean converting one projector for the coming season.

"We're in detail about this digital thing," Handy says with a hearty laugh. Studios, he points out, "have been saying for years that this is the last year of film. It hasn't happened yet."

Cine in people. Last summer, a 35mm print of *Marilyn's Guardians of the Galaxy* "had tremendous legs for us," Handy says. In the fall, when new prints become harder to obtain, the drive-in "picks it up the slack" with retro programming. Cines lined up for Steven Spielberg's *ET: the Extra Terrestrial* (1982), which "bombed like a fire-arm feature for this time of year," Handy says. He promises more classic flicks next year, though "not as a steady diet."

Down in Fairlee, Trapp joins other theater owners in lamenting a slow year for the film business and increased competition from "people downloading the movies." His digital equipment isn't cheap — a successful May *Kidnator* contributed \$10,000 — and it came with a "learning curve," he says. But once

Trapp figured out how to stop hitting out bulbs prematurely, he was happy with the "brighter picture" and "crisper" sound. "It's like night and day," he says.

While new technology keeps drivers alive, the key to their future may lie in their power to evoke the past. Retro drive clubs Jeremy Rodde recently announced a partnership with USA Drive-In, an Indiana company with plans to open a whopping 200 new drive-ins by 2016. Bloomberg Businessweek suggested in October that drive-ins have become a "relic of Americana," just

like Johnny Bacter's diner.

And that's a selling point. "For families and groups in the summer, it's the nostalgia that drives the drive-in," Trapp says.

But if Vermonters want the option of movies under the stars, they'd better exercise it. "If you have a local drive-in, you really need to attend it," Trapp says. With three theaters left, that's a hard message to ignore. ☺

INFO

somebodyin.com, localdrivein.com, cineadventures.com

directors raised the money for crossing the arches and donated it to Lyric as a gift.

Lyric's first show was *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, performed in 1974 in what's now the **FLUKE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**. At the time, the six-story building on Burlington's Main Street was an abandoned movie house with a crumbling basement floor and no plumbing. Lyric's founding members brought in Porta-Pottos, and planks across the mud in the basement room and put on a show.

From those humble beginnings, two Burlington theater powerhouses emerged. In 1990, Lyric launched a fundraising campaign to buy the Flynn, initially securing an board of directors with a new nonprofit formed to manage the venue. Over time, the Flynn developed its own board and purchased the building.

INFO

lyrictheater.org

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Opera Theatre of Weston's Secret Weapon? A Classic Story Made New

BY AMY LILLY

It's not often that a new opera production of the San Francisco Opera, then heads straight to Vermont. Yet the **OPERA THEATRE OF WESTON** has managed to accomplish just that with *The Secret Garden*, an SFO commission that opera based on the beloved 1911 novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett. The OTW will produce a revised version of *The Secret Garden* for its East Coast premiere at three post-holiday matinees in Rutland and Weston.

LOU HARRISON, who founded OTW with fellow voice teacher **MARILYN** in 1998, says she couldn't resist the idea of staging the opera when she spotted the SFO listing at the back of the national magazine *Opera News*. OTW came to bring opera to children, and the classic story seemed the perfect vehicle. In Burnett's novel, two spoiled and neglected 10-year-olds, Mary Lennox and her cousin Colin Craven, befriend each other and discover a passion for living through the healing power of nature.

Typically, the company produces operas with children's parts, such as Mozart's *The Magic Flute* and *Joseph and the Coat of Gold*, so that young audiences can see their parents' opera. But *The Secret Garden*, written (and libretto) as a "family-friendly" opera rather than a children's one, has an engaging plot for 10-year-olds and strong by an adult soprano and junior Mesaria who the opera has "the most demanding score we've ever worked with" she has engaged professional singers, most of them former students, from around the country—including New York City soprano **Lora Davidovici**, who will sing Mary.

The absence of young performers didn't seem to matter to the reportedly packed audiences in San Francisco, where reviewers noted the uniformly high attention of younger listeners. But to maintain OTW's mission of "opera for kids with kids," Mesaria and Nell created five animal parts with the permission of composer **Nadia Gasser** and librettist **Carly Harrison**. Local children will play the roles—a central character in the book and a dancing part in this

production—plus a squirrel, a fox, a cat and a crow.

The opera was commissioned by David Gockley, the country's most prominent champion of new opera. As general director of the SFO—and, before that, of Houston Grand Opera—Gockley commissioned a host of works now integral to the repertoire, including Mark Adamo's *Little Women* and John Adams' *Nixon* in China.

Gockley presumably took a leap by commissioning Gasser, a Bay Area composer with wide-ranging musical abilities but no previous experience writing operas. Based at his Penikese, Calif., home, the 50-year-old calls himself "a classical composer among other things." Gasser, also a pianist, writes everything from jazz compositions to the Broadway-bound musical *Beauty and the Beast* to an oratorio on Booker Wright (an African American writer at a whites-only restaurant in the mid-'50s South, whose outspokenness had tragic consequences).

"Gockley knew I had a penchant for writing for voice," Gasser recalls. He adds that the director's only requirement was that the family opera be based on a story in the public domain.

Gasser may have been uniquely qualified to compose an opera that would appeal to modern ears. For eight years, beginning in 1999, he analyzed and dissected "new and new" of music of every genre for the streaming service Pandora, assigning each piece

a set of musical attributes from among hundreds in the service's complex algorithm. "It gave me a window into musical construction and the potential of musical expression," Gasser says.

With *The Secret Garden*, Gasser aimed for accessibility, though he also hopes his score will "stand up to the repertoire." Of the three live, piano-accompanied excerpts from the opera (which is scored for 10 instruments) that Gasser posted on his website, one is particularly simple, direct and sure to reach children effectively: the theme. After viewing the San Francisco



Soprano Lora Davidovici

performances with librettist Harrison, Gasser expanded that theme into an aria for the OTW production and made several other changes to help the music "communicate more directly."

Harrison introduced his own revisions (beyond the score): the OTW production begins in England and flashes back to Mary's time in India. The son of two Hollywood actors—Bob Harrison, who played Mary Higgins in *My Fair Lady*, and Lita Palmer—he has a staggering list of plays, novels, musicals and film and television works to his credit. But, as with Gasser, *The Secret Garden* was his first foray into opera.

Harrison declares during a phone call from his Woodstock, NY, home that the experience of writing an opera libretto made him realize the form is "a higher order of artistic accomplishment" than he'd been used to. That's because the actors also have to sing and the crew is much larger. "There are stage managers for both sides of the stage," Harrison notes in his native British accent.

The composer and librettist met serendipitously at a performance in California. Harrison was running a symphony by Gasser commissioned by Harrison's brother-in-law As *The Secret Garden* libretto, Harrison took the approach of first, not getting in the way of Gasser's

music—"The libretto is always second nature," he says—and, second, staying faithful to Burnett. "I love her book," says the writer.

Yet Harrison encountered a real linguistic challenge, he recalls: "You don't know whether or how much to retain the 19th-century feel of the original. You can't imitate fully in a pastiche of an old style of language, nor can you let it fly with your own vernacular."

What he came up with, during heated exchanges over a period of years—including one 17-hour phone conversation—always seemed to work for Gasser, Harrison recalls. "I felt [Gasser] would have set the phone back to music without any trouble," he jokes.

Harrison notes the "simple and sweet-down" libretto of *Beauty and the Beast* of the *Secret Garden*, another opera based on a literary work of an older era, is "the greatest ever written." Though *Secret* was a first for him, the libretto has had a life of its own: opera programs he initiated to see a child, and she took him to see an opera regularly, requiring that "before you visit, you sit down with the libretto in your hands and listened to the whole opera on LP at least."

Opera lovers at that other one, demanding, and some opera companies are struggling to survive, including Vermont's own **GREEN MOUNTAIN OPERA**, which has canceled its 2015 season. According to Mesaria, OTW's private donations are down this year, but its corporate gifts and grants are up, most likely because of the ambitious prospect of staging a promising new opera.

Gasser agrees that opera "will never really die" [it] may suffer occasionally, but these grander forms of expression are part of who we are."

With young audiences as its target, Opera Theatre of Weston may be keeping that expression alive in Vermont. As Harrison points out, "There was no end of kids in San Francisco, and you'd hope maybe this is the way opera can survive." ☐

INFO

The Secret Garden, Sunday January 4, 2 p.m., at Vermont. The opera is fully cast and fully staged Sunday January 11 at 2 p.m. at Weston Playhouse. 802.335.parnassus@otw.org; otwtheatre.com/rehearsal



Feathered Friends Forever: A Founder's Legacy Lives On at the Birds of Vermont Museum

BY ETHAN DE SOTE

Bob Spear, cofounder of Burlington's **BIRDS OF VERMONT MUSEUM**, always considered his remarkably lifelike wooden bird sculptures to be purpose-built. A lifelong conservationist and educator, Spear maintained that his 500-plus sculptures were designed to inform museum visitors — especially young ones — about the natural world, and to instill in them an appreciation for it.

Yet, in Seven Days' news on February 12, Spear's work might justifiably be considered trampoline local art, as well: His wooden birds look more realistic than many works of taxidermy. Spear never viewed himself as an artist, but didn't refuse art to view his carvings as art.

Spear died in October at age 94. Though he'd stepped back from museum administration — and from carving — in recent years, he remained a member of the museum's board until just before his death. And he could often be found by the museum's large ground-floor window, engaged in his favorite activity: bird watching.

JOHN TAMMAGE, executive director of the BOMV, says that, for the museum staff and supporters, Spear's passing was more of an emotional issue than an administrative one. "Everybody's very sad, and it feels like the end of an era," says Tammage, who knew Spear for 20 years. "But the museum itself was prepared for [his death]. I miss him a lot, but to be honest, watching him decline was, for me, harder than his actual death."

When Spear cofounded BOMV in 1982, he laid out its educational and conservationist mission, which continues to

guide the nonprofit museum. "Bob had written out his vision a few years ago," Tammage says, "and was pretty specific about what he was hoping for." That vision includes keeping the museum a small-scale enterprise, hosting programs and exhibits that emphasize the craft of woodcarving, and maintaining the trails that meander over 40 of the museum's 100 acres.

Still, some changes are in the works, says Tammage. The museum staff plans to select the works of other woodcarvers, and hopes to enter into a partnership with the nonprofit organization New England Woodcarvers. And a plan is afoot to construct a new blind in Spear's honor near a pond on museum grounds, pending board approval.

Tammage notes that, in the two months since Spear died, she's often been asked if the museum will endorse. Indeed it will, she says, in large part owing to Spear's own efforts. "Bob and the board set up [the museum] 29 years ago so that it would last longer than everyone involved," she says, "and they did a great job with that." Spear, for instance, formally donated all his carvings to the museum, a highly independent entity, to forestall quibbles over ownership.

Stachon here found that regular interaction with the natural world is beneficial to human health, Tammage points out. In that regard, she says, the Birds of Vermont Museum is as relevant as ever. □

INFO

Until April 12, the Birds of Vermont Museum is open by appointment only, 500 Sherman Hollow Road, Burlington, 434-2467. birds.vt.museum.org

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PICTURE THIS



Manufacturing of M. Fort Meier's
"Choosing Presence" (Sculpture, 2010)

It was a very good year for the Hood Museum of Art: In 2014, the Dartmouth College institution received two major donations of artwork from alumni. The college was already an art lover's destination, offering such attractions as the stunning "The Epic of American Civilization" mural by Jose Clemente Orozco in the Baker Library. Exhibits included the likes of Picasso prints, aboriginal paintings, and the recently closed "Witness: Art and Civil Rights in the Sixties." The gifts of contemporary photography from Nancy and Tam O'Neil (class of '79) and of European and American art from the late Barbara J. and David G. Stahl (class of '47) add nearly 500 pieces to the Hood's permanent collection.

It's not every day — or year — that a college art museum can boast such acquisitions.

The Stahl collection assembled over three decades "expresses some of the chief interests, preoccupations and viewpoints of the collectors," according to the museum. Those would include interests in music, social justice, spirituality and the human condition, and "an abhorrence of war, racial intolerance and totalitarianism." The Stahls' collective eye led them primarily to prints, whose "binding thematic links" lend themselves to object-based teaching that is important to the Hood's mission as an academic museum.

Some of the highlights among these 118 pieces are old master prints by Albrecht Dürer and Rembrandt, 19th-century depictions of topics subjected to Henry Ford's Laissez-moi-passer of social unrest by Käthe Kollwitz, and surreal political images by Hanses Gauer. Early-20th-century German expressionist prints also express social criticism.

By contrast, the O'Neils' gift of 26 photographs by 10 artists shows toward the late 20th century and early 21st. Collection for more than two decades, they donated to the Hood transcending large-scale color images and aerial environmental shots, as well as photos in traditional genres such as portraiture. The works by internationally recognized photographers — including Edward Tufte, who was exhibited at the **SHEDDING LIGHTS** alongside Ansel Adams in 2010 — will be used to enhance the museum's ability to teach contemporary art and a wide swath of subjects across the curriculum, "states museum director **NICHOL STUOR**."

Works from both of the donated collections will appear in future exhibits at the Hood, according to museum staff.

PAMELA POLSTON

INFO

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MR. BLAH BLAH BLAH AND BLAH SOME MORE



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JONATHAN ROTSZTEIN

is a writer, artist, and editor. He is the author of the comic book series 'The Center for Cartoon Studies' and 'The Center for Cartoon Studies'.



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Dear Cecil,

I usually don't dare step into the abyss that is cryptozoology forums, but I recently discovered that one common counterargument to the skeptic's claim of a lack of evidence for Bigfoot is that we've never found bear bones in the wild, either. Supposedly the forest climate, flora and fauna break down carcasses to such a degree that the odds of finding one of a relatively rare apex predator would be near nil. So: Is it possible that a population of apes in some very isolated area of the western U.S. or Canada wouldn't have been detected at this point? How large would the population have to be to be self-sustaining, what kind of range would they need and is there a pocket of the North American wild where they could hide out?

Joe Christanson

I feel you, Joe. Cryptozoology can be a cruel discipline, full of bitter old scientists with ruined reputations and plenty of internet anger. Story-five-plus years of keeping hope alive—Bigfoot prints first but the notes in 1958—can take quite a toll on the psyche.

This is not to say that the whole idea of an as-yet-undiscovered large mammal somewhere in North America is completely foolish. The *Yu Quang* or of Vietnam and Laos wasn't identified until 1992, the first live specimen wasn't caught until '94. The blue-tailed leopards (*Neofelis nebulosa*) were rediscovered (after being declared extinct) in 2001. *Gop* can't be an article this full about an elusive beast who had been living without human contact in a Maine forest for 27 years, subsisting on stolen Twinkies. The fact goes on.

But, however, the existence of an enormous and

extremely socially biased is unlikely—mostly because its caloric needs would require it to frequent too large an area for it to go unspotted forever. We'll do a sci-fi column.

The cryptozoologist's consensus has it that Bigfoot is a primate, possibly some distant cousin to early man. Judging from the habits of other large primates (including humans), we'd expect Bigfoot to live on a mostly vegetarian diet of fruits, nuts, bark and leaves. They'd require 20 to 40 calories (and 300 milliliters of fresh water) per kilogram of body weight per day. Given an estimated body weight of 180 kg (around 400 pounds), we can guess Bigfoot's diet consists of about 3,600 calories a day. Keep in mind that its conservative *Gop* range, who only weigh around 160 pounds, eat between 2,500 calories, in hazelnuts and salmon. If our food is plenty.

Assuming food supplies permit, primate groups may

keep to a small range of maybe a few hundred acres. But the bigger the species, generally speaking, the more foraging time they need per head—in a western lowland gorilla can account for 350-plus acres of its own and walk more than a kilometer a day in search of food. So unless the Bigfoot has pined on some unusually well-stocked nut, they'd have to eat and about hunting colonies.

The number of Sasquatches necessary for a viable population depends on what your goals are. From a short-term genetic-diversity standpoint, they'd need to be something like 50 breeding Bigfoots—but even then you'd still have a lot of first-cousin reproduction going on. To maintain any decent chance of genetic viability long term, we'd probably take at least 10 times that many.

Where might this large the central concentration of Bigfoots reside? A 2009 study designed to demonstrate some limits of



vestibular, the well-honed deductive mind might therefore conclude that people are commonly mistaking black bears for celebrity sightings of Bigfoot.

None of this has stopped Bigfoot believers, who err on the side of actually managed to get Sasquatch preservation ordinances on the books in parts of Washington State. But let's keep the science in mind here: In all recorded history, a single confirmed Bigfoot fossil, bone, hair or flesh sample has never been found. DNA testing on alleged remains of Sasquatches and yetis has been proven to come from cows, porcupines or occasionally the extremely odd-looking aurochs, but nothing previously undiscovered.

As for the bear carcass argument, yes, bear carcasses are rare finds, but plenty of well-documented examples have turned up, as well as enough fossils to support a theory of their evolution and reconstruct their migratory patterns.

Could there be any lonely Sasquatch wandering around, the last of its species, just being out the days until its uncollected demise? Possibly. But if the final Bigfoot falls in a forest and no one is close to see it, will all those bitter cryptozoologists be vindicated? It's doubtful.

INFO

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The Big Not-So-Easy

Well, this might be forward of me," I said to my customer, Brenda White, who was sitting beside me and enjoying the ride. "But your hair is simply fabulous. There's no other word for it."

I know that compliment might come across as stereotypically gay and I was fine with it. Under the right inspiration, I'd venture to say there's a gay man in every one of us, male and female alike. Brenda's hair was a whipped halo of beauty, sensuously styled and coiled as if gutted. I couldn't name the shade of red, only that it was as if a candy apple had exploded atop her head. Every woman has her signature element, and this was clearly Brenda's.

"Thank you for that, darling!" Brenda said. "There's the thing about New Orleans—it's always humid, and that frizzes up my hair. And you can't wear anything made of wool! It would be like donning a wet blanket. When I moved there from Berkeley 20 years ago, eventually I had to throw out every one of my beautiful wool dresses. But I considered it a small price to pay!"

We were en route to Montpelier, where Brenda would spend Christmas with her sister's family. The driving conditions were not ideal, but more slippery than icy, thank goodness. If New Orleans is the Big Easy, Vermont is the Big Not-So-Easy. Safety being the first priority of any caber's words his side, I drove slowly and deliberately through the gray afternoon, all the while basking in my customer's sunny disposition. This woman was the opposite of a wet blanket.

"So tell me about your new life in New Orleans. What a change from the East Coast!"

"Oh, you got that right, honey. I was born to live down there. It was always in my soul. I have a cute condo in the French Quarter, and I sell real estate for a living. And for Mardi Gras, I ride with an all-women krewe called the Mauses!"

"Mausemen?" I said. "Are there other all-women krewees, or is yours the only one?"

"I think there's a new one started up called Las. But we were the first. Our thing is throwing those elaborately decorated shoes. For months in advance, we all meet up to work on 'em. There's usually about 30 of us at any one of these get-togethers, and we have a ball, let me tell you. The basic shoe itself is manufactured in Cheng, but we do all the embroidery and headwork. On Mardi Gras, the crowds line up 15, 20 deep for a chance at one of our shoes. The things are covered. Our floats are amazing pieces of art, too."

"Oh, man," I said. "I think New Orleans culture is America's jewel—the music, the food, the people. I once saw a show about the Mardi Gras Indian tribes, those groups of African American men who dress up

and parade in their own fantastic take on Native Americans. It being New Orleans, a distinct musical tradition is also part of the whole performance. It's all so beautiful to me, and you can't make it up. It's like some gorgeous dance world!"

Brenda was nodding her head. "We have mad love for the Mardi Gras Indians, and their thing is all down in house, out of respect. You know their motto, right? 'Don't hate, don't know how.' That right there is the spirit of the Mardi Gras Indians."

"Do you also attend the famous jazz festival?"

"Are you kidding me, darling? My first one was during a chance visit in 1987, and I haven't missed it since. Definitely not since I moved there permanently in '95. That music is the air I breathe." Brenda paused to chuckle before adding, "We, air—the hot, moist, humid air!"

"Boy! I could see some of that now, based on right about now. The dry freezing air is already beginning to wear me down, and it's still December!"

Brenda said, "I'll see what I can do. I had a great talk with my cabdriver to the airport this morning. He

referred to himself as an 'old-school, moon-ass driver.' I know the term 'moon-ass' sounds racist, but that's how many Cajun men refer to themselves, especially the older generation. I mean, it's not nice to say that, to my ears, it feels like a point of pride, at least when used among the Cajuns."

"Yeah, I know what you mean. Every ethnic group has labels like that. It's cool to use one if you're a member of the tribe. If you're not, I wouldn't."

In Montpelier, we took the diagonal onto Silver Street, 10 minutes—give or take—from our destination. Brenda turned to me to speak, and I could tell she was being thoughtful.

"Here's the thing about New Orleans," she said softly, "and the reason I love it so. There's space in that city for every type of person. You simply can't be too weird or eccentric for the Big Easy. That's why Katrina couldn't kill the place. We all need it too much to let it go."

We drove in silent alliance the remainder of the way, just listening to the wet snow splashing under the wheels, getting out at the neighborhood.

White-coated emergency lining the road. I thought about how lucky Brenda was to have found a place to live that so embodied and expressed her spirit. For that, that very, yes, I found Vermont 25 years ago—the Big Not-So-Easy.

I really like that nickname, I thought, and smiled to myself. But I won't be printing up any T-shirts. Nope, I think I'll keep it between me and Vermont. ☺

All these stories are true, though names and locations may be altered to protect privacy.

INFO

Hackie is a twice-monthly column that can also be reached online at www.vermontjournal.com. To reach Jerimian, email hackie@vermontjournal.com or www.vermontjournal.com.

THIS WOMAN WAS THE OPPOSITE OF A WET BLANKET.

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Life Stories

Remembering Vermonters who died in 2014

BY SEVEN DAYS STAFF

More than 5,000 people died in Vermont in 2014, according to the Vermont Department of Health. Some of them — such as former senator Jim Jeffords, *Vermont Law School* professor Gregory Hanna and poet Galway Kinnell — made headlines.

Most didn't bring largely out of the public eye. But each one had friends, loved ones and, in many cases, careers or interests that contributed to the civic, economic and cultural fabric of the state.

Some of the deceased have already been featured in this paper, with obituaries in our Life Lines section. But for this

year-end issue, *Seven Days* writers researched their own accounts of some remarkable Vermonters who died in 2014. Woven throughout this collection of biographies are several further narratives — among them the close of a local tech company, the tragic consequences of heroin addiction, the loss of rural traditions and the defiant persistence of free spirits.

In sharing these stories, we aim to honor the memories of those who died, and to deepen readers' understanding of the diverse and extraordinary array of people who call Vermont home. ☐

"I've Climbed the Next Mountain"

Anne Mansoff March 3, 1923–June 8, 2014

One March day a few years ago, when southern Vermont was covered in snow, Alvin Brubaker got a call from Anne Mansoff, her then-ecology-garden friend. "She calls me up and says, 'I want you to come over and take pictures of me. I'm jumping off the house today,'" Brubaker recalls.

So she drove to her friend's outgrown home in Andover. After Brubaker arrived, Mansoff climbed onto the roof and then leapt, joyfully, into the high snow banks piled near the side of the house. Then she did it again.

As eighty-something women jumping from a roof for fun might seem unusual, her Brubaker wasn't surprised. Mansoff was a fiercely independent woman, friends say smart, well read, strong in mind and body. She built her home herself, with help from her father and friends; she lived there alone for 38 years, much of that time without running water. Her 90th birthday present to herself: her first hot water heater. Mansoff moved to West River Valley Senior Housing in Townshend just a few months before she died on June 8 of natural causes. She was 91.

By all accounts, Mansoff led an unusually full life. Born in Boston, she spent her childhood traveling frequently, attending boarding schools and living in Europe. At 18, she became a Roman Catholic nun. She left the

profession at 43, went to graduate school for a degree in library sciences and then spent a few years as the art librarian at Berea College. She was a first aid and mountaineering instructor for the National Ski Patrol and a certified Nordic ski instructor.

In her free time, Mansoff cultivated a number of hobbies, among them the study of ancient religions, calligraphy, Beethoven and dancing. She belonged to local poetry and writing groups, and painted watercolors and pencils. A talented calligrapher, she'd teach her

friends' young grand children to write their own names with flour.

Mansoff spent much of the last three decades adventuring with her close friend Edna Northrup. The two met in the early 50s when the widowed Northrup went with friends on an ice-on-ice cross-country ski trip in Vermont. Mansoff was their guide. The two hit it off almost immediately.

At the time, Mansoff was 500 miles shy of hiking the entire 2,160-mile stretch of the Appalachian Trail. Northrup had always wanted to hike the AT, so she accompanied Mansoff on the final stretch. Then the two started over together at the beginning. It's a tradition for thru-hikers to adopt a trail nickname. Northrup took "the Druid." Mansoff, "the Shaman." Presumably, the women referred to themselves as "the pixies in their sties."

SHE USED A CHAINSAW UNTIL SHE WAS 88, AT WHICH POINT SHE SWITCHED TO SPLITTING HER FIREWOOD WITH AN AX.



Anne Mansoff jumping off the roof of her house.



JOSEPH RICHARD ALLEN

"So Good at Winning People Over"

Joseph Richard Allen, August 6, 1979–October 18, 2024

Josee Allen had a knack for teaching people's lives in a positive way. There's not a trait people typically associate with police officers, his mother, Pamela Allen, says with a chuckle. But her son's easy smile, infectious laugh and ability to always seek out the good in people—even in those he arrested repeatedly—may explain why he was, in her words, "so good at winning people over."

That's not just a mother's rosy view of her son. Allen worked for the Rutland County Sheriff's Department for 19 years, he was 35 when he died of liver cancer on October 18. Shortly after his death, a lieutenant from the sheriff's department stopped by her house and told her about a family that had given him and Josee "a whole lot of trouble" over the years.

"[The] cops were constantly at their house, constantly," she recalls. But one day after a member of that family collapsed, Sgt. Allen did CPR on the man until the ambulance arrived.

"The family never forgot that," Allen says. "Today, they've given him the star of their life."

It's not hard to find others who felt a deep affection for Allen. Michael Plutnick, now an officer with the Montpelier Police Department, was a cadet at the Vermont Police Academy when he met Allen, who worked there part-time as a trainer. Plutnick, a six-foot-four former Marine who served in Iraq, was at first intimidated by the shorter but muscular man who was his drill instructor. But as Plutnick got to know Allen, he soon realized his instructor was just "a giant guy, really hairy." Today, Plutnick considers Allen a mentor and role model.

In February, two months after Allen was diagnosed with cancer, several of his coworkers organized a fundraiser for him and his family in Rutland. According to the fundraiser's Facebook page, hundreds attended the event. As an additional fundraising page set up to help his family defray medical costs logged \$18,531 in donations.

Shortly before he passed, Rutland County Sheriff Stephen Bernard told the *Rutland Herald* that he'd never received a single complaint about Allen. "In my 25 years' experience," Bernard noted, "I've never had that with a deputy or any other officer I supervised."

Eventually, Allen began making lasting impressions on people from outside agency. According to his mother, Allen was born two months prematurely and weighed just 2 pounds, 6 ounces. He spent the first few months of his life in the neonatal unit in Burlington.



JOSEE ALLEN WITH DAUGHTERS PAULA AND ARIANNA

"His pediatrician told me, don't expect anything because he was small," his mother recalls. "But he surprised."

Allen, who grew up in Rutland, was the only African American student at Rutland Town Elementary School. Yet Pamela says that Josee's race was never an issue for him or his friends. In fact, she says, he was such a popular student and strong athlete that, when he decided to attend Mill River Union High School in North Clarendon rather than Rutland High School, many of his friends—and several of their parents—tried to convince him to change his mind.

Allen's father, Bobby, was also a police officer, though he never got to see his son become one. The elder Allen died in 1996 of lung cancer while Josee was still at State College studying psychology. At the time, Pamela says, she never suspected her son would follow his father's path.

After graduating college, Allen returned to Rutland and got a job working as an intern at its Bedford Regional Medical Center. Though he worked there only a short time, he made an impression on his coworkers. During his final day at the hospital earlier this year, so many staffers visited his room, his room number, a maintenance man brought up extra chairs to accommodate the mob.

The workers closest to him were his wife and "real mom," Pamela, and their daughters, Arianna, 12, and Malia, 4.

Pamela says Josee and Arianna had a regular "father-daughter thing" voluntering at a local homeless shelter. As she recalls, for months a man there would talk to Arianna but not to Josee, because he was a cop but that her son was never going to be one.

"One day Josee said to me, 'You remember that guy I was talking about?'" she says. "Well, he's finally talking to me now!"

KEN PICKARD

LAST EDITED IN 1940

PROMINENT PASSAGES

As senators publicly mourned their newsmakers this year, income taxes drove us all the way up to the roof and beyond.

SENATOR JIM JEFFORDS

1994-2024

When he left the Republican Party in 2001 to become an independent, Jeffords inspired conservatives and became a liberal tea-bag hero.

WILLIAM ALLEN

1922-2024

The wife of the first national delegate, Allen ran his Washington D.C. office and served numerous senators after his 1964 death.

GEORGE BARNHILL

1925-2024

Shuttle was a World War II veteran, founder of Air Force Staffed Travel and the father of David Peckinpaugh.

THOMAS HILGREN

1923-2024

A former state legislator and founder of Hines Duvall, Hilgren was also the director of gubernatorial candidate SCOTT BROWN. He died during two gubernatorial campaigns.

GAILWYN KIMBLE

1927-2024

Kimble's second poetry collection earned more than a dozen deals of poetry and reached between Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award.

BOB SPYER

1923-2024

Spicer's career took him to Colorado, the State of Vermont Museum, and Huntington, which houses hundreds of his hand-carved and painted bits.

CHERYL HAMM

1948-2024

A former Vermont Law School professor, Hamm was the go-to legal analyst for local media. Her death ended a long career in law and news in her hometown of Vermont.

After they finished the AT, the pair went on to hike the 46 high peaks in the Adirondacks, and then the 103-high mountains in the Northeast. Many of them lacked trails, so Mansell and Northrup used compasses and altimeters to navigate their climbs.

"The two of us would put hand off and take whatever time we needed," Northrup recalls. "We knew how to pace ourselves. We knew how to take care of our lives. It was just a wonderful experience."

The pair lived and skied together for decades. Mansell, who never married or had children, listed himself into Northrup's large family. For 30 years, she spent every Christmas at the Northrup home, with Northrup's five children and numerous grandchildren. Northrup describes her friend as a remarkable, one of a kind woman.

"You don't find Anne growing on a tree, I'll tell you," she says. "I could not replace Anne, and I would not try because [our friendship] was too special."

Well into her later years, Mansell would lend her backpack and walk the streets of Andover to stay fit, though she preferred to get her exercise splitting wood. She used a chainsaw until she was 88, at which point she switched to splitting her firewood with an ax.

Mansell chose the inscription for her gravestone a few years ago. The simple marker rests by a stone wall at the edge of a cemetery bordering the property where she lived for nearly 60 years. It reads: "We climbed the next mountain for a new view."

KATHRYN FLAGG

PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM JEFFORDS

ILLUSTRATION BY JIM JEFFORDS

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PHOTO BY JIM JEFFORDS

"Carolyn Had Her Eyes on the Horizon"

Carolyn Edwards, 68, June 6, 1930–October 16, 2014

In the rapidly evolving information-technology field, the only constant is change. Carolyn Edwards, CEO of Colchester-based C3, knew that as well as anyone.

Until she died in October of fall-pumpkin season, the 64-year-old South Burlington resident helmed one of the state's best-known IT services firms. C3's 55 employees design, develop and support IT systems for businesses including Vermont Teddy Bear Company, Orion and National Life Group.

Edwards led the company from the very beginning. She was one of four cofounders, who met while working for Digital Equipment Corporation's Burlington office. When Digital announced it was leaving the state, Edwards, Martin Thieret, Todd Kelley and Malcom Dever decided to stick around and start a consulting company. They'd use the relationships with national technology vendors they'd developed at Digital to help local companies with their computing needs. In 1993, they launched their new venture, then called Cooperative Computing.

Each of the partners had a unique skill set, says Dever, vice president of engineering. Edwards contributed the strategic vision. "Carolyn had her eyes

on the horizon," she says. When the team met with clients, Dever recalls, "She was the one saying, 'Here's an opportunity for you to transform your business in the next five years.'"

Edwards, who grew up in Wilmar, didn't have a technical background. She majored in psychology at the University of Vermont, recalls her younger sister, Sandy Regis. In the 1970s, she and her then-husband, Jim Edwards, moved to Boston, where Carolyn worked in the personnel office at General Radio. When the couple returned to Vermont a few years later, Edwards took a human resources job at UVM before ending up at Digital, where she managed a technical team. She and her husband divorced in 1988.

COLLEEN FLYNN



Carolyn Edwards



Carolyn with sons Zachary and Theodore

she may not have known how to configure a server, but Edwards was always "very focused and very determined," says Regis.

Dinner conversations. As CEO, Edwards scooped Furlow and Forrester Research looking for new ideas and trends.

Her efforts paid off, says John Evans, a former client. Now senior adviser to UVM's president and provost, Evans was dean of the College of Medicine in the 1990s. He worked with C3 to help the medical school integrate computing technology into its learning environment. Evans describes Edwards as

"a strong, visionary and unassuming leader" who always did her homework.

Edwards, he says, would show up for their meetings with "a 40-slide PowerPoint presentation." He would routinely ask her to skip ahead to the final slide, outlining how C3 would execute the project. "I don't know whether those really were more than a couple of slides," he says. "When I once asked her about it, that twinkle came to her eyes and there was a little laugh."

Evans says C3 helped the school develop technological needs to make its curriculum more interactive. He

"He Was Always a Pretty Big Risk Taker"

Christina Critter, 68, Scott Smith, June 20, 1953–October 2, 2014

Christina Scott Smith wasn't wild about naming her only son Christopher. She loved the name, but not the inevitable shortening of it to "Chris."

She couldn't have worried about that. Days after she gave birth, a young father member struggled to pronounce "Christopher." It came out something more like "Critter."

The nickname stuck. Teachers, friends, relatives, even his parents adopted it, using it well past the age when boys usually insist that get names be discarded like old rags.

When Critter was 8, Scott Smith and her husband, Jesse, gave him his first motorized dirt bike. He was so excited, he cried a little.

He practiced riding at on friends' houses in town, and in nearby Bethel. On weekends, Critter competed in races in Derby, Vt., and Canaan, N.H., scoring on his green-and-black Kawasaki bike

and shaking off ugly spills as if they were minor inconvenience.

"He was so competitive," Scott Smith says. "It was a huge adrenaline rush. He was always a pretty big risk taker. It's just how he was made."

Critter also played basketball, baseball and football at Hartford High School.

But a couple of dirt-bike wrecks left his knee damaged. He was outgoing, but was reluctant to have surgery. "He didn't want to miss any sports or racing," his mother says, "so he wanted to hold out as long as he could." By 2011, his senior year, the pain was too much, and he agreed to an operation.

The surgery led to two developments that would favor him: Critter's life. He gave up dirt biking, and he took pre-scription Percocets to ease his pain.

Courthouse doctors in Vermont are limited with defendants whose drug problems began with a seemingly



Christopher Smith, 16

emotional, pain-med prescription. Critter's family believes that's what happened to him. And his mother wonders if the loss of dirt biking left him searching for a new thrill.

Critter became a heroin addict. "I was very naive about it," Scott Smith admits. "I don't know what I was supposed to be looking for when it started. He was that risk-taking, adrenaline-type guy."

Critter got clean, then relapsed and, about a year ago, got clean once again. Throughout that time, he lived at home in White River Junction, and joked with his mother that he had no intention of ever leaving. He worked as a carpenter and housing subcontractor.

He had a girlfriend and he'd hanging out with his parents. When they went to bars with their friends, Critter



describes Edwards as an uncommonly good consultant, who made the advice he presented seem like they were his. "She took the time and effort to understand who we were, what we were trying to accomplish, and work with us to build the solution," he says. "Having heard from other business, I don't think that was unique to us. It was the way she worked and who she was."

When she wasn't working, Edwards loved getting out on the water. She owned a sailboat and enjoyed bringing her two boys, Zachary and Trenton, to Cape Cod.

Lisa Ventresca, executive director of the Vermont Business Roundtable, recalls a speech Edwards gave to a group of "emerging leaders" in 2010 that combined both of her passions. In it, Edwards, who was a Roundtable member and served on the board for five years, compared starting her business to swimming in the ocean.

"She said you can either be crushed by the waves or you can learn how to ride them," Ventresca recalls. "You have to anticipate the next trend and ride over the turmoil, or be crushed. There's always going to be that next wave."

CATHY REISMER

tugged along, playing horseshoes and cards like he was one of the gang.

"He was 32," his mother says. "He was living in the city."

Crotter died at home on October 1, police say after using a mix of heroin and Fentanyl, a deadly opiate that causes disoriented breathing and respiratory arrest, and is nearly impossible to detect. He was one of nine Upper Valley residents to overdose on Fentanyl on the fall. Police say it's unlikely that he had any idea the heroin was spiked with the dealer drug.

His family still doesn't know what went wrong.

"He had been good for a long time," Scott-Smith recalls. "We saw him every day. It was shocking."

In fact, his parents had been encouraged when Crotter announced he wanted to ride his dirt bike again. He wasn't going to compete as intensely as he did in his teenage years, but he wanted to be back out on the track. He had been talking with his bike in his basement, hoping to get it ready for the summer.

It's still there.

MARK DAVIS



"Everyone He Taught Will Carry a Piece of Harold With Them"

Harold Lane, October 11, 1918–August 15, 2014

A reporter once asked Harold Lane what it would take for him to stop playing the fiddle. After a thoughtful pause, Lane responded in his dry, Yankee drawl, "I don't know... Death, I guess."

He was right. In August, the 95-year-old fiddler and dance caller played the last dance of his 60-year tenure with the Ed Larkin Contra Dancers. Four days later Lane proclaimed to the great barn dance in the sky following, unexpected complications from a surgery. With him went one of the last living links to an era when square dances thrived regularly—and sometimes spontaneously—happened in barns, grange halls and farmhouse kitchens, and featured some obscure dances with names like the Portland Fancy.

Lane grew up working on his family's farm in Chelsea. In the 1930s, he married Edith Keyes, who passed away in 1997. The couple raised six children in Brookfield, and ran a farm. Lane also worked for 35 years at a machine-tool factory in Windsor. But music defined him. Case in point: Lane confused fiddling even after a mowing accident claimed two fingers from his right hand. Luckily, it was his bowing hand, though losing them from his fingering hand might not have stopped him from playing either.

"Harold himself has said that if it had been his left hand, he would have

simply taught himself to play with the other hand," wrote Lane's protégé, Adam Boyce, in a biography of the musician for the Vermont Folklife Center.

As a teenager during the Great Depression, Lane began learning his craft from famed Vermont fiddler Ed Larkin. Lane later became a fiddler in the regional square-dance circuit and

was hands and play the piano, guitar or banjo using foot pedals. This enabled him to call dances as a one-man band.

"I tried playing that thing once," says Boyce. "Let's just say it didn't go so well."

Boyce, 42, is also a fiddler and caller and a member of the Ed Larkin Contra Dancers. According to him, Lane taught hundreds of students over the years. Now, Boyce is one of the last local practitioners of what is known as Eastern Barn Dance style of square dancing. Popular from the 1930s into the 1950s, the style occupies a niche within the dwindling square dance community. Now it's primarily found in Vermont at a dance Boyce calls monthly at the grange hall in West Newbury (he also calls monthly dances in Winterville, N.H.).

Boyce admits the future of the Eastern Barn Dance style in the Green Mountains is uncertain. Still, he believes Lane's legacy will live on in the fiddling of future generations, even if the music isn't quite the same.

"The main thing Harold taught was to find your own style, your way of doing things on the fiddle," says Boyce. "But everyone he taught will carry a piece of Harold with them."

DAN ROLLES

LIFE STORIES BY PACE

WITH HIM WENT ONE OF THE LAST LIVING LINKS TO AN ERA WHEN SQUARE DANCES REGULARLY HAPPENED IN BARN, GRANGE HALLS AND FARMHOUSE KITCHENS.

was a nationally renowned practitioner of New England fiddling—a distinctive traditional style with largely Celtic and French roots. In 2004, through the Folklife Center, he received the Governor's Heritage Award, which honored his decades of teaching and performing throughout the Green Mountains.

Lane was also something of an innovator. He designed and built several contraptions that would allow him to simultaneously play the fiddle with

PHOTO: JACQUES MARTEL

ILLUSTRATION BY JACQUES MARTEL

ILLUSTRATION BY JACQUES MARTEL

ILLUSTRATION BY JACQUES MARTEL

Life Stories BY JILL

"Don't Cry, Kid, I'm Fine"

Roger Roache's July 26, 1938–November 30, 2014

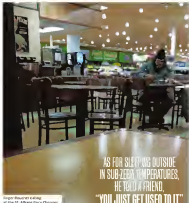
Roger Roache could have melted disgust or indifference. For 36 years, he lived beneath a highway overpass in St. Albans, and later within the concrete culverts on an industrial site.

He was mentally ill, starting up conversations that ricocheted between topics such as government aid control, magnetic forces and extraterrestrials. Roache had been diagnosed with paranoid schizoid phoria as a young man in Mine, N.Y., on Long Island.

But Roger, as everyone in town knew him, was not easily tolerated — he was trespasser in St. Albans. His dozens of friends worried about him in freezing temperatures, enjoyed long talks with him and often tried to give him food, clothing or money. But they say he refused every offering.

Instead, Roger gave to them. At the St. Albans Free Library, one of his later abnegations, he jumped up to help every time a staffer carried a stack of books to the table open doors and addressed all women as "ma'am" or "m'lady." A skilled mechanic, he fixed every a car that came in. If he found a lost wallet he'd return it, never accepting a reward.

When Angela Bernards' daughter broke her arm, he insisted on buying the cost-plus 7-year-old an ice cream cone.



Roger Roache's eating at the St. Albans Free Library

AS FOR SLEEPING OUTSIDE
IN SUB-ZERO TEMPERATURES,
HE TOLD A FRIEND,
"YOU JUST GET USED TO IT."

Roger was tall and tough-looking but his friends describe him as kind and gentle. If he got riled up about concrete rays or the portal he perceived in the beveled glass window at the library, a quiet teaching or touch on the arm calmed him. He occasionally worked up in the bathroom at the library or at the Harwoodford apartment, but left no trace.

How knew his last name until he died? A long life in the cold, coupled with a distrust of doctors and hospitals, finally led to a fatal respiratory infection. He was 55.

Many had heard how Roger landed in St. Albans. A carpenter who had run his own sheeting business, he was headed to Canada when he was stopped at the border because he lacked proper documents. Instead of going back home, Roger stuck around.

Until his seasonal service earlier this month, Rogers' friends didn't realize the extent of his fin de siècle. Nearly 200 people filled the St. Albans Free Library, spilling out of the room when the service was held.

That's when his St. Albans family met Roger's real one — four sisters still living on Long Island who loved and missed him and had begged him to come home. They last saw him in 1998, just before their mother died.

"He would always say to me,

"She's an Old Warhorse"

Western Historic Bears December 8, 1948–March 31, 2014

Smaller families are the norm these days, but much larger broods were common back in 1918. Winifred "Winnie" Bean, born into a farming family that year in Newport Center, was one of 13 children.

Later, she and her husband, Clifford, had seven children of their own. Bean, who died on March 31 at age 95, was the matriarch of a clan that included 28 grandchildren, 40 great-grandchildren and 38 great-great-grandchildren. They all called her "Grandma Bean."

A fixture at family gatherings, Bean attended every baby shower, birthday party and graduation — and there were many. In recent years, her granddaughter, Kelly Bean Cheney, hosted elaborate barbecues at her home. Bean, a "people person" to the core, never missed one. Arriving several hours early with her trademark halos, she'd march into the house and say, "Give me something to do."

Bean's son, Virgil, used to say, "Don't worry about her; she's an old warhorse," Cheney quips.

Her tandem work ethic kept Bean employed until her early eighties. A seamstress for more than 60 years, she

retired from Decorator's Delight in St. George. Owner Vicki Lambert remembers her as a devoted employee who created custom patterns and window treatments with care.

"She was like a walking unit," recalls Lambert, though her smothering was tempered with spark. Bean measured just five feet, two inches, but, forever fiery, she commanded respect. "She was little, but nobody took advantage of Winnie. You didn't tangle with her," Lambert adds.

The two remained close after Bean's retirement, fabricating curtains from Decorator's Delight-filled Bean, sewing, room and flared her passion for quilting. Bean made a one-of-a-kind quilt for each grandchild, great-grandchild and great-great-grandchild — a total of 82, if you're counting.

Her generosity extended beyond family, whether offering needy individuals a place to stay without posing judgment or contributing to various charities. Native American organizations held a special place in her heart. One reservation thanked Bean for her contributions by sending a handmade Navajo blanket, which she proudly displayed in her home.



Winifred Bean

"Don't cry, lad, I'm free!" and Yvonne Raimondi, his younger sister, through sob. She spoke to him three times a week on his cellphone, and held worry if she missed a call.

At St. Albans, a retired St. Albans City School art teacher, described Roger as "indomitable," bearing manuscripts and hand-wash on the rusty bike he rode all over town. At the library he'd bury himself in scientific and technical papers and talk about architecture. His discussions revealed a poetic, personal mind that had the need to communicate," Solomon said during his eulogy.

Wendy Steas said she and her husband, David, tried to keep tabs on Roger. She was relieved to learn that he had no income — government disability checks — and a storage unit with a few belongings.

He often collected empty bottles for the deposit money. But when a man brought him bottles to return, he'd insist they apply the proceeds, return, he said. Linda Ryan, executive director of Somerset House homeless shelter in St. Albans, who spoke briefly at the memorial service.

Roger declined to stay at the shelter. He once told Ryan, "I'm not homeless. I choose to live this way." As he sleeping

outside in subzero temperatures, he told a friend, "You just get used to it." Only a handful of homeless people in and around St. Albans are like Roger, refusing a warm bed, Ryan said. But the number of homeless individuals and families that come through Somerset House last year increased 35 percent, from 136 in 2012 to 183.

After Roger's death, Wendy and David Steas went to his most recent camping spot to gather his things. "He had a book bag full of papers," Wendy Steas said. The couple loitered his bedding and picked up his bike, which they would like to have repaired and installed in front of the library.

Dave McWilliams, who works at the city's wastewater treatment plant, suggested to the customers a different kind of tribute. "We each should do one thing for someone else before the end of the year."

French had noticed the decline in his health. Library staff told Roger they were concerned about her. He would respond, "Thank you miss," recalled children's librarian Sarah Allerton at the memorial service. "But I think a lot of us," she said to the crowded, tearful room, "would like to say 'No, sir.' Thank you."

CAROLYN SHAPIRO



Find these two 'Life Stories' in the online version of this article at seemorevt.com.
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What was the secret of Bern's age-defying energy? Anyone who asked would receive her standard reply: "I didn't smoke, I didn't drink and I didn't fool around."

For Bern's 96th birthday, Cheney baked her grandmother's requested spice cake with cream cheese frosting (noted pink). She notes that Bern "licked the spoon like a kid" while she made the frosting. Later, dozens of well-wishers at Holy Cross Church in Colchester sang "Happy Birthday" to the congregation's oldest member.

That same day, Bern showed Cheney the dress in which she wished to be buried. It was one that her late husband had loved.

The months after that were bleak. Virgil, who lived with Bern, died three weeks after her birthday. Then a heart attack landed Bern in the hospital. In March, she was transferred to Starr Pass Nursing Center, where her condition declined.

Cheney negotiated Bern's release to her home in Burlington, where she died. Family members agreed that it was just like Bern not to share a death date with Clifford, who died on April 1, 1993. Dying on March 31 was Bern's final, determined act.

Afterward, Bern's family spent three months going through every inch of her home. Among the treasures they discovered were 1,800 other dollars, boards of jewelry and Bern's lifetime fishing license, buried deep within her sewing room. Cheney, an avid fisherman, now keeps that license with her. While fishing last summer, Cheney invoked her grandmother to help her "put the biggest fish on the line." Then she reeled in a 12-pound, 3-foot long northern pike.

That day on the lake was one of many when Cheney felt her grandmother's presence. "I can still hear her giggle," she says.

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Name Game 2014

Are descriptive monikers coincidence or fate? BY KEN PICARD

Are people destined to live certain fates because of their given names? That question has been lurking around for centuries, at least since **SAMUEL ALEXANDER MADD**, a 19th-century physician and slave owner, was imprisoned for conspiring with John Wilkes Booth to assassinate Abraham Lincoln. Because Madd was the doctor who treated Booth's broken leg after his infamous leap to the stage at Ford's Theatre, his name was later attributed (incorrectly, it turns out) to the conspirator, "Your name is mad!"

Well, for those of us in the news biz, it's hard to ignore the karmic connection that seems to link people's names and their chosen professions, habits, hobbies, desires or personal practices. Linguists — and word geeks such as yours truly — refer to these names as "aptonyms" due to their aptness for the people to whom they belong. Some aptonyms throughout history include telephone inventor **ALEXANDER GREGG BELL**, the lesser-known Bell Labs employee, as **BOB**, who pioneered early cellular phone technology and **ALAN TURING**, who popularized and improved upon (but didn't invent) the indoor flush toilet.

In years past, I've pointed out some aptonyms that became so well known, the names barely required further explanation. They included serial killer **ANTHONY WENDIS**, gardener and food writer **MICHAEL POLLAN** and Bush-era secretary of education **MARGARET OSKAMP**. Last year brought in U.S. ambassador to the United Nations **CAROLINA PEPPER**. This year, national press corps journalists were introduced to President Obama's new press secretary, **JOAN MARCUS**, whose name meant leave some reporters wondering: Is he joking or is he serious?

What's in a name? For some, a lucrative career. Locally, **JOHN RICE** is the owner of a business in Stone called Pyramid Stone Works. **HENRY** took over a market in Manchester, Vt., called the Farm Store, which stocks mostly local foods. And **MARY CANNON** headed the ornate job of bar concierge at Hotel Vermont in Burlington. Talk about karma in a can.

It's not just people but places that occasionally seem to possess a destiny based on their names. Before this year,



wasn't **AMES**, an Escondido, Calif. dairy farm, admitted to violating Vermont's water pollution laws and agricultural-practice regulations, for which its owners agreed to pay \$400,000 in civil penalties. And more than a few clients of Marriage Quest, an interactive couples and/or co-parenting curriculum Cabot, must surely stop and ponder their counselors' street address, an **OSCAR** way home.

But no aptonym this year beats the incredibly apt name **ODD PONDICE**. On April 28, the 44-year-old Canadian man was arrested and charged with an indecent act after repeatedly flashing his junk at visitors of Mooney's Bay Park in Ottawa. Far overtop that statistic, **Papadakis** carries the honor of 2014 Aptonym of the Year — hands down.

Here are some of the 2014 runners up

"MURDER" C. BRIGHT: According to a Vermont State Police press release (which doesn't explain why the suspect's first name includes the numeral 3) the 50-year-old owner of ParNORA Energy Solutions of Saxtons River was hired to perform

an energy audit and weatherization in a private residence. On October 22, police allege that Bright secretly hid a small video camera in the homeowner's upstairs bedroom, for which he was later cited for suspicion of voyeurism. (Evidently, the accused was really hot but not so bright.)

DAVID RAY and **MARK FRICK** co-owners of the Reservoir Restaurant & Tap Room in Waterbury and the Beach in Iowa (I recommend the fries.)

KEVIN JAMES WILKINS: South Burlington Resident.

DAVID BELL: Director of Vermont's Emergency Medical Services and the Office of Public Health Preparedness.

DALE CRANE: Director of field services for the Vermont Department of Corrections.

ERIC SAMUEL: associate professor at Champlain College who teaches computer music and sound

PETER RUMPLE: driver who allegedly rammed a vehicle on July 16 in Rutland, then fled the scene. Rumples was later apprehended and issued a citation for leaving the scene of an accident, driving with a criminally suspended license and for having no insurance on his vehicle.

JORDAN RUCK: On July 21, the 17-year-old Waterbury youth overtook his 2002 Volkswagen Bug to avoid striking a deer, veered off the road and crashed into a clump of trees (Hill Street News originally reported the story, the headline surely would have read: "back swerves to Avoid Deer, Crashes Bug").

ANSEL BEARD: director of the Visiting Nurse Association's end-of-life services who oversees Vermont's largest hospice and palliative care programs. (An angel with no one, indeed.)

MICHAEL TRIBE: reporter for the online news outlet VTDisgorr.org.

GARY WARD: international award-winning photographer.

DAVE WACHS: information-security expert at Green Mountain Power.

ANTHONY SPINIS: 38 Johnsbury resident accused, on January 12, of stealing a purse containing cash and prescription narcotics.

MICHAEL SNOW: Calchester contractor who handles local snow plowing.

ROBERT MCGEE: 26-year-old St. Johnsbury resident charged in January with domestic assault. (Also, if it weren't a home burglary charge involving the theft of Mercedes and one remote control.)

JOSEPH WOODRICK: The 35-year-old Montpelier man was arrested at the Concord Inn in St. Johnsbury and charged with disorderly conduct for allegedly using profanity in front of other hotel guests, including small children, and knocking on the doors of other hotel patrons. Woodruff was later arrested for a second time for disorderly conduct in Concord, Vt.

WALTER CHAMBERS: a 29-year-old St. Johnsbury man charged with unlawful

crashed for deliberately damaging the cables for the satellite TV at a private residence.

NO RESCUES: A Burlington gas explosion who in March voted against those city gas-control measures, all of which failed.

THELMA LOUISE BLOOM: author of John Irving Bloom, aka Joe Bob Briggs, a nationally syndicated film critic.

CRYSTAL SHIPWRECK: In the ancient Celtic Book of the Dead, the hero is wooed by a goddess who whisks him away to an "earthly paradise beyond the sea" in a magical crystal ship that belongs to the sea god Manannan. On April 1

Vermont State Police arrested a Crystal Shipper, 29, in Bullocks Falls and charged her with harboring a runaway juvenile from Massachusetts.

MURDER IN BATHING: The Missoula, Mont., man was accused of setting a trap for intruders by intentionally leaving his garage door open and placing a parrot in clear view. Kourina was charged with first-degree murder after he shot to death 19-year-old Dina Dole, a German high school exchange student who entered the garage in his defense. Kourina invoked Montana's "castle doctrine," which justifies the use of deadly force in defending an occupied dwelling—or a decoy prison

MARRIAGE AND LOUING NUMBER: These 70-year-old Dutch twins retired earlier this year after 80 years of working in gradients in Amsterdam's red-light district. According to the UK's Daily Mail, the twins entered the sex trade before they were 20 to escape violent relationships, and now claim to have serviced more than 255,000 men. Louisa, a mother of four, says the red-light district isn't what it used to be and now lacks a "sense of community."

This year's anti-spytopynia include:

JANIS WYOMING: a 68-year-old Seneca River resident who reported to police on New Year's Eve 2013 that her

residence had been egged by an unknown vandal. (What's the love?)

ADAMANT SWEET: a Burlington woman charged in July with domestic assault for allegedly hitting her husband for spilling the last of their marzipan. (As spouses mistakes go, this one's not exactly dire, Stuart.)

ONE WARD: a Bristol man charged on May 21 with allegedly assaulting his significant other @

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Supper Superlatives

The best things to happen to Vermont food in 2014

BY ALICE LAVITT AND HANNAH PALMER EGAN

What are you eating this year? To some of our readers, that may seem like an odd question. Dinner is dinner, right? But *Seven Days'* food writers spend hours in search of stimulating sustenance, probing from fine dining to grubby spots for sure you can eat about what to eat in Vermont. We put our heads on the line every day for this mission. The casualties—two wine-liners and one gill-broiler, so far—reflect a lifestyle that sometimes resembles a buffet line.

Plumbing the abundance our great state has to offer makes us a little hot. Our new favorites come and go as quickly as restaurants open and close in the grueling food and beverage biz.

So at year's end, it's a pleasure to share our collective knowledge and summarize the year that was. From Alice's burger for perfect pasta to Hannah's cocktail consumption—and to our desire to see certain trends bite the dust—here are our thoughts on the 2014 dining scene.

Best Meal

Alice: Junction, Essex

Overall, I had a good but mixed experience at the Essex Gateway Resort & Spa's latest stab at fine dining, Junction. But the chef-fabulous dinner that put me in the hands of chef de cuisine Michael Clauso was a revelation.

I hate to use that word, but it's true. From a Macony cheese ascented with saffron, shallots, sesame seeds and beet syrup to polenta with ashiu butter and pickled mushrooms, the five-plus courses Clauso had no opened my mind to a new world of flavor combinations. Many of his creations wouldn't have worked on paper, but on my tongue, they made me rethink what does and does not go together. That's fine dining at its best.

Hannah: The Bench, Stowe

Halfway through my first meal at the Bench, opened in September by Watbury Reservoir Restaurant & Tap Room owners Chad Fry and Mark Price, I started to feel a familiar glow that only comes around so often. This is the best meal I've had at a restaurant in months. I caught myself thinking:

The beer list was superb and went well with the comfort-food offerings on the menu. A plate of spring,



PHOTO: JASON HARRIS

succulent seared scallops, served with just a bit of heat and a light parsnip purée, was one of the most satisfying dishes I'd encountered all year. A whopping plate of potatoes, slathered in beer-braised brown gravy, was all that a potato could aspire to be.

Even though the kitchen smogged my entire and I had to stand it back, everything else was perfect, from the ranch alla vodka to the pilaf, house-made marinara-mellow cheese that bade us farewell.

Best Menu Reinvention

Alice: Bayview Eats, Colchester

Since 2011, Bayview Eats has been a good place for a sandwich and a beverage. But in 2014, chef Jonathan Turner brought a carefully honed culinary expertise to the little Millers Bay café.

The standard menu showcases the Loamish ranch house in factored food, such as meat and cheese burgers with cauliflower, or pulled pork with black beans and dirty rice. But Turner especially shines with his specials. One night, I enjoyed an experience of perfectly rendered, sous-vide-glazed pork belly. Another evening brought coffee-rubbed salmon trout.

In fact, uncommon items seem to have become Bayview's calling card. My favorite special yet was a pile of braised lamb tacos that lit up my mouth with a mini-parade promenade and a tangy local fire.

Hannah: The Daily Planet, Burlington

Burlington's Daily Planet has been an adventuresome standby for decades. For much of that time, its menu remained largely the same—Mama's Salad, a great burger, solid cocktails. But in recent years, the kitchen has been a bit of a revolving door, and each new chef left his or her mark on familiar dishes. The DP experience became inconsistent at best, though no less beloved.

Then, in September, longtime owner Corey Houghton decided to shake things up and brought in a young, ambitious chef: Justin Taylor, who comes from a fine-dining background, topped the slate clean.

Regular's menu blends haute cuisine and comfort food (think rack-of-lamb "hotdog" and pumpkin-fennel jusque scattered with popcorn dust) without



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More food after the classified section
PAGE 41

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dipping into a black hole of pub fare mediocrity. Food is both accessible and impressively prepared using techniques a more burger flipping cook could never imagine.

Portions are scrumptious and prices cheap, so share or snack on several dishes. And at the Planet, in contrast to so many other "small plate" joints, the principle plays out well in practice. Head in on a weeknight, order five or six dishes, and mix and match bites. Whether it's about the food or not, conversation will follow.

Best Food Truck

Alibi: Barbury EAT

The moment I tried Barbury EAT's Caribbean position, this contest was over. Soft, sweet plantains crunched, then melted in my mouth along with a layer of caramelized soft-pea gravy. Finished with cheese and crisp-edged pulled pork, this dish from a mobile eatery was better balanced than any you'd find coming out of most fine dining kitchens.

Tuesday, everything I've tried at the truck was outstanding. The fragrant, spicy curried Vermont Chicken goat is finger-possessed, whether served with coconut-fried rice and peas or chewy root. Further, Sunday, the owners were kind to sell the truck after this year's Champlain Valley Race. They continue to ward some truck.

Hannah: Phøniam

I appreciate Matt Sargent's open-book attitude and his ideas about responsible sourcing and using the whole animal. But what I really love is his fun, take-no-prisoners approach to cooking.

The duck was a contractor for half a lifetime and switched to cooking because he felt like it. So his ideas about food are flexible, with a few exceptions. He wants things to be good, affordable for an average Vermonter (say, someone making a carpenter's — or writer's — salary), and not too self-serious. Sargent's Phantom food truck was a hit on the summer food festival circuit, and made regular appearances in the Mid River Valley and at Stillborn Vineyard.

One cool spring night at Phantom, I enjoyed a bowl of turkey-mushroom soup with pickled onion and a gorgeous shaved fennel salad. For dessert? Housemade Cracker Jacks.

The truck may have been a fleeting pleasure, though. On December 21, Sargent left opened-bistro-and-meatier Phøniam restaurant in Whitefield. With an ever-changing local menu (including wines and beers) and a who's who of the Vermont food, beverage and nightlife scenes already signed up to collaborate



with live on-site diners, live music and other events, the new spot is sure to keep the Phantom spirit alive.

Biggest Trend

Alice: Wood-fired oven

The cooking method went hip when big names such as Gold Tavern and Burlington's Hies of the Wood opened with wood-fired kitchens. Now, a restaurant can't seem to open in Vermont without a woodshed, whether it sports a fiery grill, an oven or something in between.

This year, La Beca Wood Fired Pizzeria in Barre, the Ranch in Stowe and Watersheds Food & Drink in Winooski were just a few of the new restaurants turning out fire-kissed fare. I'm not complaining, but wood cooking is no longer special enough for an eatery to pin its concept on. It's almost not worth mentioning anymore, joining local sourcing of ingredients as a good "trend" that has become part of the very definition of a Vermont restaurant.

Hannah: Beer lines

I can't say that beer lines didn't exist in Vermont before 2013, but this year, Green Mountain Inbevards seemed more willing than ever to stand in line to buy beer. After closing its country retail space in late 2013, Waterbury's the Alchemist held its first truck sale in February 2014. On that cold winter day, people shuffled into this to buy cans of Sticky Tripper and local release specialty brews off the back of a truck. The brewery has been holding similar sales almost monthly since then.

With the Alchemist's on-site success, combined with the widespread availability of mobile containers (which allow brewers to set up on-site without peering up cash and space to install their own cooling lines), Vermont saw a surge in single-day can releases. This spring, Piddiehead Brewing pumped on the can wagon in December. I fully support, releasing cultural bits of Matt Colwell's first Headliner Porter Green Tailors of Second Piddle followed, and here fans have been lining up outside the brewery periodically for an array of brews ever since.

In Greenboro Bread, folks from new and for continue to line up weekly (as they have done for many moons) for whatever's on draft at HBI Farmstead Brewery. In September, they did the same at Mad River Glen for a special release of Double Dose IPA, brewed by Otter Creek brewer Mike Gehring and Sean Lawson of Lawson's Pinot Lignis. Throughout the season, Lawson's

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farm filled into glasses at the Whitefield Farmers Market.

Then, of course, there were the breakfasts. In Burlington, the Vermont Breweries Festival sold out in an improbable 11 minutes, and the lines for the most popular brewer's were close to 100 yards long at their peak.

But, as I have written for the last here known for decades, when people gather to enjoy something they love, there's no better place to enjoy broadly better with a stranger than in line. And so much the better with a beer in hand.

Best Trend

Alcove: Housemade pasta

I've always had a weak spot for housemade pasta. It used to be something of a rare treat, reserved for a fancy night out. But this year, I started seeing it on menus. I could enjoy without waiting for a table.

Even once-pricy restaurants are now cutting the costs of their house parties — Blackbird Tavern's latest menu offers gnocchetti or bucatini for \$14 a plate. I've made no secret of my addiction to Pascolo Restaurant's tagliatelle dishes. That's the deal, long a place to find a housemade pasta dish or two, unveiled a menu in August that featured housemade noodles exclusively. For a carb lover, things couldn't get much better.

Hannah: Craft cocktails

In the past few years, Vermont has started to warm to the drink. Perhaps it's due to the rapid growth of the local distilling industry, or maybe the wild and crazy licensing industry has opened our minds to the vast variety of fun or alcoholic beverage can take.

Maybe it's all (or none) of these things, but the important part is that local cocktails are improving. We're warming to them — thank you, Urban Moonshine, for bringing artisanal aromatics to Burlington — and to water and dapper, durbal, herbal, funkies, tonic, in-betweens and other fun stuff. And restaurants are taking note.

Though supports such as Prohibition Pig, Blackbird Tavern and Ben of the Wood have had great cocktail programs for a few years now, in 2014 we passed the tipping point: Every new restaurant hoping to make a splash is putting serious thought into its cocktail list. And that's a trend worth celebrating.

Best Cocktails

Hannah: The Gryphon

I've said it before and I'll say it again: The cocktails at Burlington's Gryphon



Photo: Kathryn Barker/Sage and Ben Gurnett at Whitefield Brewing

are just right. At the town's newest classy-but-outsuper fancy restaurant, bartender Matt McMahon and Bart Funk put on fun, creative, sophisticated and just plain tasty drinks. They pay homage to the classics — Manhattan, Old Fashioned, scots and juleps — with updates that keep things current for the modern palate.

Trend That Needs to Die

Alcove: Cereals

This may be the most spoiled, pretentious thing I say all year, but I'm done with cereal. Sorry, but only the best and the brightest can properly execute the custardy mixer. Round-shaped pastries I have had superior ones in Vermont (looking at you, Little Sweet's), but I've also seen enough heart bottoms and dry insides to say, "Let it go, let it go."

Even at its best, the cereal is not as sweet I crave. Making a perfect one is so difficult that occupying the recipe goes to you: braggart rights. I get it, but that doesn't mean I want to eat yours.

Hannah: Comfort food

Don't get me wrong: I love comfort food. Everyone does. It's the culinary equivalent of a heavy, cozy blanket or a grandmotherly bonus, safe and warm and innately and, OK, comforting. What's not to love?

But here's the thing: Most comfort food is stuff you or your mom (or grandmother) could cook mac and cheese, grilled cheese (with or without tomato soup), chicken soup (with or without star-shaped pasta), spaghetti and meatballs, meatloaf. In this season, Mom's recipe will always yield the best, most comforting version of the dish. So eating it at a restaurant kind of defeats the purpose. Let's live a little, hey?

There's not to say I haven't enjoyed several cheffy takes on comfort classics in the last year — I have, and I'll go back for them again, maybe even crave them. But after a while, it all just starts to blur together. There are only so many ways to make an old crock of mac and cheese stand out, and the existing stable of restaurants is doing a fine job.

If you're one of the chefs or restaurateurs who spend a comfort food spot in the past year, thank you. I applaud you and have probably snagged up to a few dishes at your restaurant. With winter upon us, I look forward to doing so again soon.

But if you're a chef or restaurateur looking to open yet another new American comfort-food joint, please don't.

Leave that to the guys doing it already, and dare to look outside the

comfort zone. Think: your dinner with something that strays from the beaten path, give us something to talk about. There's an old adage that says dinner at its best is just a tasty form of keepy-keep. If that's true, let's remember. Safe is not sexy, and groundbreaking business never turned in on its own.

Best New Foodie Haven

Alcove: Middlebury

I need to dredge going to Middlebury when Casullo's Market, which supplies me with perfect sandwiches, wasn't open. But this year, Midd got its culinary act together in a big way.

Things started changing in early 2014 with the opening of chef Michael Mohr's burger shrine, the Lobby. Its creative menu of upscale classics turned into burgers brought a much-needed sense of fun to the Middlebury dining scene.

The Diner, which replaced Steve's Park Diner, followed suit with a menu that revitalized great-spoon basics. It boasts dishes such as Cap'n Crunch-and-onion-crusted French toast and a pita filled with gingery Korean beef.

This is a town that went from zero to serving Mexican finger food in the mere theater. Good as you for embracing the joys of eating, Middlebury!

Hannah, Barre

New that storefronts are finally filling up in the Grinnell City's refurbished commercial strip and a brand-new state office building is bringing new bodies to town, food businesses are starting to move in.

The opening of Cornerstone Pub & Kitchen in late 2012 heralded a tasty change for downtown. The new owner expanded on a foundation built by Espresso House (home to some of the best coffee in central Vermont), Asian Gourmet (which serves pos-Asian fare with panache) and the super-solid downtown LaM Diner.

This past summer, Culinary Institute of America grad Dustin Smith opened the Moose Black Deli, which serves up fantastic burgers, soups and sandwiches. Rainer has it that Smith is working on a series of three-to-look pop-up dinners. Meanwhile, Elie & Shari's Simply Delicious owner Chris Goss started potting her wares on her own when she turned her old hair depot.

One driver of the culinary development is cheap real estate. Barre's highest-reputation makes nearby viable land more affordable than elsewhere in central Vermont. Lower in taxes, too, fueled by decades of empty storefronts, most food entrepreneurs can afford to set up shop on Main Street.

Finally, Barre boasts one of the best farmers' markets in the state, where the area's vibrant farms and food folks meet weekly all summer long. It's small, but every tent offers something awesome, from basic meat and produce to goat chutney to whole geese to gooseberries to heirloom cucumbers to herbs to baked goods. With a community-supported food co-op in the works and more farms taking root in the hills around town, the scene in Barre is only going to get better.

Biggest Bummer

Alice: Middle East atrocity

At this time last year, I was hoping 2014 would be full of Middle Eastern cuisine. When Alhambra's Arabic Supermarket, which opened in Colchester in January, was slated to start serving three meals a day in its cafeteria that year, and I was a faithful regular at Farah's Place in Burlington.

Then it all collapsed like a badman tent. Farah's closed in January after two and a half years in business. Meanwhile, Iraq native Alhambra fought to open a dining space in his one-stop Colchester market. It never materialized. The sources for spices, halal meats and my favorite kofta eye pencils shrank in the fall, leaving me (and all Middle Eastern food lovers) bereft.

Best Samaritans

Hannah: 14th Star Brewing

Every time I speak with the guys at 14th Star Brewing, I hang up the phone with a warm, fuzzy feeling. Usually, I turn to Alice (yes, we sit next to each other) and say something like, "I just love those guys — they're such awesome guys!" Granted, I tend to say things like that a lot, because my job puts me in touch with many wonderful people doing inspiring things.

That said, the St. Albans brewery gets the 2013 gold star for do-gooding. Not only is 14th Star veteran-owned and -operated (thank you, brewers, for your service), but brewery founder Steve Gagner seems to make every effort to serve his community. That might mean that Gagner, who was recently named president of the Vermont Brewers Association, brews a special beer for his alma mater, Norwich University, and donates 100 percent of the profits to the school's fundraising campaign. Or the brewers might sponsor fundraisers for the local food bank, as they did on December 18, or decide to keep the menu limited at their upcoming new tastings, taproom in Jay's Tavern at Albans, were not to compete with nearby restaurants. In all these instances, 14th Star's success offers proof, in case anyone needed it, that virtue and generosity are often handsomely rewarded.

What We Promise Never to Write About Again

Alice: Trader Joe's

Two words: Trader Joe's. You, readers were excited, and so am I, and to keep you up-to-date on the big chains around New that it's here, I've almost forgotten about it. See you at Healthy Living.

Hannah: One-barrel breweries

Call me a snob, but I'm not going to write about your one-barrel brewery. You're a homebrewer, and that's great, but it's not news.

Unless you're the next big thing — which you might be, and I truly, honestly hope you are. But if you're that good, you should start with a bigger option.

If you can't afford a bigger system that investors? Take out a small business loan? Wait a year or three to start your production brewery. Once you're properly set up, people are going to want your beer. And then I'll write to write about you. ☺

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Best Bite of 2014

Pascale Ristorante, Burlington

BY ALICE LEVITT

For years, when readers asked me where to stop for a meal on Church Street, I told them to keep walking. It's no surprise that Burlington's main drag generally hasn't been inspirational to me, as a critic. I'm most excited by the unadorned spots that exceed my expectations and offer something I can't find anywhere else. Church Street, with its high traffic and steep costs, attracts just the opposite: restaurants vying to please as many diners as possible.

Jeremy Beetham, the father of modern utilitarianism, posited that the best course of action is one that will create "the greatest happiness of the greatest number" and lead to suffering for the fewest. In gustatory terms, I'm often the one suffering in these cases. However, this year Church Street welcomed a crowd pleaser I can agree on. Pascale Ristorante has earned my stamp as the best new local restaurant of 2014.

Very few eateries in Vermont can satisfy my whole clan. My brother is a classic adult picky eater whose daily diet consists primarily of Morningstar Farms' Chik, Fatties, Invisio and chocolate chip cookies. But he's a fan of Pascale's pizza Margherita.

My mom is a vegetarian who lost her sense of smell to a shingles bite as a tween. The slippery chef of the restaurant's homemade pasta provides enough textures to bring her back as a regular diner.

Grandma is an 86-year-old would-be traveler who's eaten her way across every continent but Antarctica. She has a reputation for being picky, but she moons over Pascale's classic Caesar and her homemade sandwiches.

As for me? Just read this article. Picking the best new restaurant wasn't easy. A close runner-up was the Lobby in Middlebury, with its dramatic riverside setting and menu of upscale fire-truck-road-and-burgers. I also wrestled with the possibility of calling this "The Year of the Diner" and splitting the love between South Burlington's Parkway Diner and the Diner in Middlebury, for their perfect versions of classics and uncommon creations, respectively.

But Pascale triumphed. It's a place to which I'm happy to direct tourists and locals, foodies and fussy eaters alike.

Here's why.

Best Dish

I'm a carbohydrate eater who adheres to the Paleo diet in most of my off hours, so Pascale's pizza is my dirty little secret. It feeds my dreams — and my waking nightmares of buying new, bigger jeans. When I indulge, it's no easy feat to pick my poison, so it were.

The beautiful carbohydrates, which vibrates with unexpected lemon that cuts through its eggy, chewy, fatty delights, has left the building for the moment. I miss it. But chef Kevin

**FRESH AND
SEASONAL IS
THE NAME OF
THE GAME,
AND I WILL PLAY BY
WHATEVER RULES
THEY PUT FORTH.**



Alice Levitt



Buckley Carbone

calendar

DECEMBER 26, 2014 • JANUARY 7, 2015

FRI. 26

community

OPEN HEART CIRCLE: A safe space for men and women encourages open sharing that fosters gratitude, reflection, affirmation and inner sacred Mountain. Studio Burlington, 3-4:45 p.m. One class, Info: 223-8724

REMEMISCER GROUP: Participants ages 50 and up chat about their early memories. Montpelier Senior Activity Center, 12-4:30 p.m. Free. Info: 223-2516

dance

BALLROOM & LATE DANCING: WENHSEE MALL: Learn ballroom choreography and steps for singles and couples. No partner or experience required. Jazzercise studio. Williston. Introductory lesson, 7-8 p.m. Dance, 8-10 p.m. \$8-14. Info: 862-2285

arts

ILLUMINATE THE LAKE: Visitors celebrate winter animals and lights at this one-of-a-kind exhibit. See schowmont.org for details. C.D.H. Lake Aquarium and Science Center/Lake Champlain. Burlington, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Regular admission: \$10-20; 13-19, \$5. Free for kids 7 and under. Info: 671-624-6386

films

MAURICE MILLER'S 'NO TURNING BACK': The biggest names in skiing tackle daunting peaks in this adrenaline-pumping tribute to 60 years of mountain culture and extreme freeskiering. Vermont Ski and Snowboard Museum. Stowe, 7 p.m. \$12 limited space. Info: 863-5068

fitness

BRIDGE CLUB: 50 steps. Drinkers have fun with the popular card game. Burlington Bridge Club. Burlington, 10 a.m.-59 includes refreshments. Info: 651-6200

health & fitness

AVOID FALLS WITH IMPROVED STABILITY: A personal trainer demonstrates daily exercises for

seniors concerned about their balance. Pines Senior Living Community. South Burlington, 10-11 a.m. \$2-6. Info: 658-7477

LAUGHTER YOGA: Bewlieve, clap, chant and giggle! Participants reduce stress with this playful practice. Living potential studio. The Weintraub Co-op, Burlington. noon-1 p.m. Free. Info: 990-7373

LIVING STUDIO GROUP: A blend of singing and dancing enlivens a workout. Montpelier Senior Activity Center, 2-3 p.m. Free. Info: 223-2516

YOGA CONSULT: Yogi looking to refine their practice get helpful tips. Fusion Studio Yoga & Body Therapy. Montpelier, 11 a.m. Free. practitioner Info: 212-8323

holidays

'AN ALMOST VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS': Musicians and puppeteers join forces onstage in The Nutcracker. Sweet George and A Tree Grows in Brooklyn. Burlington. Theater Playhouse, 8-9:30 & 7-8:30 p.m. \$13-19. Info: 367-4257

'A CHRISTMAS CAROL': Privately performed gets unexpected Christmas Eve visitors in Northam. Stage a celebration of Charles Dickens' tale. Virgin Opera House. White River Junction, 2 & 7:30 p.m. \$20-35. Info: 298-7000

kids

EARLY BIRD HATTE: One plus one equals four! Youngsters and their caregivers explore to mathematic through books, songs and games. Richford Free Library. 11 a.m.-noon. Free. Info: 434-3038

MUSIC WITH CURIE: Mothers and grooves up to age 5 share out their wiles. Le Sue. Longing Bunch. Burlington. Williston, 10 a.m. Free. Info: 784-1810

outdoors

SLUSH RIGGS: Gaily up! Weather permitting, hikers trail falls over snow-covered open fields. Hike to leave every half hour. starts on First corner. First served. Shelburne Farms, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. \$8-10; Free for kids 2 and under. Info: 863-6442

FRI. 26 @ 54



Sassy and Classy

Middle Eastern dance meets mayhem and mischief when the Hippodrome Bellydance Circus performs. Dressed by R.K. Nurey, the St. Johnsbury-based troupe blends flamenco, burlesque, hip-hop and gypsy folkloric dance into a unique, ever-evolving style. Joined by members of Aram Caravan, the Bay Area and the Heather Martin Celtic Dancers, the acts' extensiveness were undeniable on its head. Live music, showgirls and plenty of groovers — led by Nurey's slender whistling through the Dark Circus — keep audiences on the edge of their seats. Making entries subtle, these polished performers present a sophisticated show to remember.

FIRST NIGHT ST. JOHNSBURY: HYPOSTIQUE BELLYDANCE CIRCUS

Saturday, December 31, 8 p.m. Tickets, at Fisher Hall, \$8. Introductory Admission, \$10-20. First Night website. Info: 348-8600. firstnightstjohnsbury.com



DEC. 31 | HOLIDAYS



LIST YOUR UPCOMING EVENT HERE FOR FREE!

All listings become due one day before the event on the Thursday before publication. Find our convenient form at burlington.compendium.com

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CALENDAR EVENTS IN SEVEN DAYS:

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Defying Gravity

Married twins Alex Smith and Emily Smith Burchan do everything together — including feats of breathtaking aerial acrobatics. *The award-winning performers'* high-flying act snagged them gigs with Cirque du Soleil and Ringling Bros. and toured in Italy, China, among other countries. After touring the world, the twos began teaching in Burlington and soon realized they had the recipe for success, founding their company, Nimble Arts, in 2003. "Today the twins head the New England Center for Circus Arts, known for producing top performers such as the trapezists, jugglers and contortionists featured in "Kaosus: A Cirque Spectacular."

FIRST NIGHT ST. JOHNSBURY: NIMBLE ARTS

Saturday, December 31, 8-9 p.m., at First Union Center, 55 Johndbury Avenue, \$30. 20 First Night tickets, \$150. For tickets, visit firstnightvt.com.

Perfect Complement

Liam Heiberster and Taylor Nash perform under the moniker Cricket Blue, but the Burlington-based folk duo, which formed in 2003, is anything but cheery. The pair met at Middlebury College, where they studied philosophy and literature. Their subjects figure prominently in atmospheric music that Vermont Public Radio's Peter Bello says "has a deceptive simplicity to it." Cricket Blue's self-titled debut EP established Heiberster and Nash as skilled songwriters with a knack for storytelling. Taking the stage with just a pair of acoustic guitars, they easily weave themes of love, mythology and friendship into tightly knit, soaring harmonies.

FIRST NIGHT BURLINGTON: CRICKET BLUE

Saturday, December 31, 7-9 p.m., at First Union Center/First Church in Burlington, \$5-20. First Night tickets: Free for kids under 3. Visit 603-855-5555 or firstnightburlington.com.

She's just 22 years old, but Francesca Blanchard has seen plenty of the world. Born in France, the singer-songwriter moved to Vermont at age 11, and her passport boasts stamps from India, Egypt, Kenya, South Korea, Thailand, Guatemala and Mount Kenya. International travel exposed Blanchard to cultural experiences that would later inform her bilingual songwriting — a mix of French and English that bears the mark of one wise beyond her years. Pouring her heart into delicate melodies written for the acoustic guitar, the rising talent launched a music career with her 2011 EP *Songs on an Oxidized and continues to blossom.*

FIRST NIGHT BURLINGTON: FRANCESCA BLANCHARD

Saturday, December 31, 8-9:45 p.m., at First Union Center, 55 South Street in Burlington, \$5-20. First Night tickets: Free for kids under 3. Visit 603-855-5555 or firstnightburlington.com.

Best of Both Worlds



DEC. 31 | HOLIDAYS

TUESDAY

ballet

GROWING OLDER DISCUSSION GROUP: Amy Poole leads a dialogue that addresses thoughts and fears about aging. Montpelier Senior Activity Center 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free info: 223-2318.

SAT.27

comedy

"TWO FIFTY AND A DUCKER": Chris Mccorty and Julia O'Farrill send a duck big laughs in their expanded sketch comedy conjuncture with live musical accompaniment. North End Studio 8 Bullwaggon 7-8:30 p.m. \$75. Info: 373-4703.

community

WOMEN'S CIRCLE: Those who identify as women gather for readings, discussion and activities. The Wellness Co-op building, 50 S. 300 p.m. Free info: 484-482-8238, ext. 642.

etc.

ILLUMINATE THE LAKE: See FRID. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

LARGE BIRDS OF PREY PERFORMANCE: Resident raptors from the Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences delight avian and business, young and old.

Schedrocks, Sugarbush Resort, Warrens 4-5:30 p.m. \$7-12. Info: 800-537-8427.

VERMONT READER: Visitors learn the history of Santa's signature animals and how they connect to other wildlife in the region. ECO-Lake Aquarium and Science Discovery Center for Lake Champlain, Burlington, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Regular admission: \$10-30-130. \$10 for kids 2 and under. Info: 577-3324, 577-3316.

film

WARREN HILLER'S 'NO TURNING BACK': See FRID.26.

food & drink

CHOCOLATE TASTING: Streets lovers sample Swiss' white, looking about how cocoa is grown and produced. Rusty Stephan Chocolats & Chocolate Factory, Montpelier 2-3 p.m. Free info: 223-2550.

HIDEBOLEY WINTER FARMERS MARKET: Crafts, cheeses, breads, wagers and more live fair spots in shops.

Laurel, Mary Helen Elementary School, Hideboley 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Free info: 858-3223.

RUPTLAND WINTER FARMERS MARKET: More than 50 vendors offer produce, cheese, homemade bread and other

chase. Vermont products at the bustling indoor venue. Vermont Farmers Food Center, Rutland 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free info: 763-7266.

WINE TASTING: New releases of Argenteo red blends please discerning palates. Thapa Family-Lake Shawe 4-6 p.m. \$20 per person. Info: 223-3342.

health & fitness

PRERATUL YOGA & BARRIE: Meets to be prepare their bodies for labor and birth. Preratul Method Studio, Burlington 10:30-11:30 a.m. \$15. Info: 828-0271.

R.I.P.P.E.: Resistance, intervals, power, plyometrics, endurance and diet define this high intensity physical fitness program. North End Studio A, Burlington, 9-10 a.m. \$10. Info: 378-9442.

holidays

A CHRISTMAS CAROL: See FRID.26.

kids

SATURDAY DROP-IN STORY TIME: A weekly selection of music and books entertains children of all ages. Burnham Memorial Library, Colchester 10 a.m. Free. Info: 264-0664.

SPANISH MEDICAL PLASMAUR: Little one-up to age 5 join Cana Cana Center for classes, rhythms and songs in Spanish crafts and snacks with Marsha round out the fun. Dorothy Ailing Memorial Library, Williston 10:30 a.m. Free. Info: 878-4818.

outdoors

BOB MONITORING MALE: Adults and older children do birding and keep an eye out for Feathered Birds. Birds of Vermont Museum, Harrington 8 a.m.-5 a.m. Free. per person. Info: 434-2167.

SLIDING RINGS: See FRID.26. 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

SHAKE MOUNTAIN WINTER HONDERLAND: Did growth farmers from local ponds and an expansive view of the southern champagne valley make for a memorable outing. Contact: Top leader for details. Shake Mountain Modelery 10 a.m. Free. per person. limited space. Info: 223-4822.

performers

36-PRINTING, DESIGNING & SCANNING WITH BLUE-INK: Instruction in basic programs teaches attendees how to build up all models of the vibrant. KUBI, Burlington, noon-1:30 p.m. Free. Info: 373-8230.

DIGITAL VIDEO EDITING: Final Cut Pro users get familiar with the most recent version of the editing software. Perseus Inc. of VCAI Access Orientation or equivalent, or instructor's permission. VCAI Studio, Burlington 10 a.m. Free. Info: 651-5882, info@vcaistudio.com.

theater

"RUCKUS: A CIRQUE SPECTACULAR!" High flying theater's come to life as the award-winning troupe of trapeze, jugglers and acrobats. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, Shawe Mountain Resort 7 p.m. \$20-40. Info: 760-4834.

SUN.28

community

ONE BACK PRACTICE: Who are you? What do I want to be? How can I change the world? An open meeting explores these topics. Fletcher Family Library, Burlington 4-5:45 p.m. Free. Info: 828-9644.

etc.

ILLUMINATE THE LAKE: See FRID.26. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

film

WARREN HILLER'S 'NO TURNING BACK': See FRID.26. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, Shawe Mountain Resort 7 p.m. \$15. Info: 760-4834.

food & drink

SUNDAY BREAKFAST: Rice and cheese? Pancakes, scrambled eggs, corned beef hash, sausage, gravy and biscuits await. Proceeds benefit veterans and their families. WFFR Post 300, Peru, N.Y., 8 a.m. noon. \$8. Info: 516-643-6580.

health & fitness

MA WITH SUCE: Drawing from martial arts, dance and healing arts, sensory based movements inspire participants to explore their potential. South End Studio, Burlington 10:30 a.m. \$14. Info: 323-3698.

SUNDAY SANGHA COMMUNITY

ASHINWA YOGA: Students of all ages and skill levels. 11 a.m. to be breathe through a series of poses. Starfall Yoga, Burlington 9-10:30 p.m. \$1-20 suggested donation. Info: 228-6183.

holidays

ERLEAKING UP CHRISTMAS: CAJON SLEIGHING DANCE: Meet friends and the Green Mountain Playgroup channel the best of the holiday with San Diego's Tunes Club. Town Hall 3 p.m. Cost: none. Info: 563-2279.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA: Greg, Timothy, Jane Rowell and Jim Van Myren present a seasonal program for voice, guitar and organ. Shelburne United Methodist Church 1:30-2:30 p.m. Free. Info: 885-4880.

VARASAKITVA, NEW YEAR'S PURIFICATION RETREAT: Those looking to shed negativity, live better and welcome 2015 meet new venerable, Tenzin Chogyal for an introspective gateway. See www.tenzin.org for details. Mongolia Center, Warren, 5 p.m. \$40-50 suggested donation. Info: 633-4433.

etc.

KIDS YOGA: Yogs ages 4 through 7 years strength and balance while learning how to focus and use Gravitational Yoga. Montpelier 4:15-5:15 p.m. \$12. Info: 224-4832.

RUSELWAY TIME WITH MASA SNA: Musicians up to age 8 learn new words as rhymes, games, music, dance and puppet show. Rutland Region, Williston 11:45 a.m. Free. Info: 764-1805.

theater

OMANEDS FRENCH CONVERSATION: Perfect words for French speakers practice the tongue at a casual dinner chat. Local History Room, Fletcher Family Library, Burlington 4-5:30 p.m. Free. Info: 363-2421.

theater

OMANEDS FRENCH CONVERSATION: Perfect words for French speakers practice the tongue at a casual dinner chat. Local History Room, Fletcher Family Library, Burlington 4-5:30 p.m. Free. Info: 363-2421.

outdoors

SLEDGE RIGGS: See FRID.26. 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

MON.29

dance

HOT CAMP FOR DANCERS: Intermediate-to-advanced dancers have their skills under the direction of Hanna Seitzler. Canterbury Dance & Fitness, Shawe Mountain 2-3:45 p.m. \$15. Info: 229-4476.

etc.

ILLUMINATE THE LAKE: See FRID.26. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

film

WARREN HILLER'S 'NO TURNING BACK': See FRID.26.

gymnastics

BRIDGE CLIMB: See FRID.26. 7 p.m.

TABLETOP GAME NIGHT: Players ages 14 and up set out to friendly bouts of battles of Catan, Ticket to Ride and more. Burnham Memorial Library, Colchester 7:30-7:45 p.m. Free. Info: 264-0664.

YOGA NIGHT: Trains of quick thinkers gather for a meeting of the minds. Lake House, Warren, Burlington 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 651-5032.

health & fitness

AVOID FALLS WITH IMPROVED STABILITY: See FRID.26.

LIVING STRONG GROUP: See FRID.26. 2:30-3:30 p.m.

PRERATUL YOGA & BARRIE: See SAT.27.

R.I.P.P.E.: See SAT.27. 9-10 p.m.

holidays

VARASAKITVA, NEW YEAR'S PURIFICATION RETREAT: See SAT.28. 5 p.m.

etc.

CHILDLIGHT YOGA FOR KIDS: Budding yogis ages 4 through 8 hit the mat for a stretching session. Fletcher Family Library, Burlington 4:15 a.m. Free. Info: 885-7295.

INTERGENERATIONAL DISSENT RIDE: **DISCUSSION:** Readers in grades 6 and up consider Polar Migration as a challenge. Golden's Art Gallery and the Drawing City over sweet treats. Burnham Memorial Library, Colchester 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 264-0664.

KIDS YOGA: A fun-filled class for students ages 6 through 12, focusing on focus, creativity and teamwork. Starfall Yoga, Montpelier 4:15-5:15 p.m. \$12. Info: 725-4885.

WALK WITH PETER: Frodo's quest to age 8 and up sing and dance, names to traditional and original folk tunes. Dorothy Ailing Memorial Library, Williston 11 a.m. Free. Info: 878-4818.



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calendar

MONDAY 01/26

beginners

BEGINNING PIANO LESSON Guided by Kim Hewitt, students of all ages try their hands at the keyboard while songs Compass House and Arts Center Brandon 3:30-4 p.m. \$25, pre-register for 30-minute time slot. Info: 866-1864

outdoors

SLEIGH RIDES See Feb 26 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

TUE.30

community

TLC NURSING ASSOCIATES HOLIDAY

OPEN HOUSE Testimonials about the organization's in-home services for people of all ages, physical conditions and cognitive abilities. TLC Nursing Associates, West Lebanon, N.H., 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free pre-register. Info: 325-7103

TUESDAY VOLUNTEER HOURS Tolls pitch in around the shop by organizing parts, moving boxes and packing other projects. Division under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Lake Ketchikan, Vermont, Burlington 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Info: 284-9587

dance

INTRO TO TRIBAL BELLY DANCE Ancient traditions define this morning meditation that celebrates creative energy. Comfortable clothing, optional. Sacred Mountain Studios, Burlington 8:45 a.m. \$10. Info: paper.c@emyley.com

"THE MUTACKER" The Sup or Plum Fairy twirls across the stage in this satirical ballet production. Directed to the big screen. Catamount Arts Center, 1st Johnson St. 7-8 p.m. Info: 348-2600

SAVING DANCE PRACTICE SESSION

Swirl, lead dancers get familiar with the trade hop. Cardio and toning. Indoor shoes required. Champion Club, Burlington 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$5. Info: 449-7100

rto.

ILLUMINATE THE LAKE See Feb 26 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

film

KNIGHTS OF THE MYSTIC HOUR GLASS Cinema hounds screen campy flicks at this site to offbeat productions. Main Street, Museum, White River Junction, 8 p.m. Free. Info: 366-2776

food & drink

WINE TASTING Cheers! Locavores meet with Stuart's Thematics of Travel. Distributing over newly released Vermont wine. Theop Family Lodge, Stowe 4-6 p.m. \$25, pre-register. Info: 353-5162

garden

GAMING FOR TEENS & ADULTS Tabletop games entertain players of all skill levels. Kids 13 and under require a legal guardian or parent/guardian to attend. Fletcher Free Library, Burlington 5:45 p.m. Free. Info: 868-3218

health & fitness

AFRO JAZZ & YOGA WORKOUT An inspired session combines dancing and yoga sequences with floor work and hand weights. Contemporary dance & fitness. Studio, Montpelier 5:15-6:45 p.m. \$16. Info: 325-4278

GIYU YOGA WITH ALL-LOCAL STUDENTS go their stretch in a supportive environment. Personal mat required. Dorothy Ailing Memorial Library, W. Lebanon 9:30-10:30 p.m. Free. Info: 878-4386

INTRO TO YOGA Newcomers discover the benefits of aligning breath and body. Fusion Studio Yoga & Body Therapy, Montpelier 4-5 p.m. Free, pre-register. Info: 275-8923

YOGA WITH SUE See Sun 29. North End Studios, Burlington 7-8 a.m. \$10. Info: 822-5098

PREGNATAL YOGA & BARRIE See SAT 27 11:15-11:45 a.m. 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Arts/leisure

THE APARTMENT Business plans go sideways early in Jeff Whelan's 1990s romantic comedy starring Jack Lemmon and Shirley MacLaine. First House, Main Street Landing, Performing Arts Center, Burlington 7 p.m. Free. First come, first served. Info: 549-3618

VALERIE YOGA: NEW YEAR'S PURIFICATION RETREAT See Sun 28, 5 p.m.

Arts

CHILDREN'S YOGA FOR KIDS See MON 25

TECH TUESDAY Young cars tackle e-crafts, circuits and programming after school gets out. Kintlog, Halfway Library, Montpelier 3:30-4:30 p.m. Free. Info: 223-4566

TODDLER STORY TIME Ticks up to 2 years old have fun with music, rhymes, stories and captivating tales. Burlington Memorial Library, Colchester 10:30-11 a.m. Free. pre-register. Info: 284-8440

Language

FRENCH CONVERSATION GROUP Beginner to intermediate speakers brush up on their long way skills. 11 a.m. Carline, Burlington 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Info: 949-0769

PAUSE-CAFÉ FRENCH CONVERSATION French is always a way of seeing life in dialogue in French. Private, limited. Burlington 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Info: 283-2837

outdoors

SLEIGH RIDES See Feb 26 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

events

WINTER'S CIRCLE Lit lovers of all skill levels put pen to paper in an encouraging environment. The Well Street Tap, Burlington 5:30-7 p.m. Free. Info: 888-462-6218 ext. 300

WED.31

community

PEER SUPPORT CIRCLE. A confidential welcoming space allows participants to converse freely about giving advice or solving problems. The Wellness Cxw, Burlington 5-8 p.m. Free. Info: 797-8622 etc.

DOG PARADE. Costumed canines welcome the new year with barks and wagging tails alongside their human companions. Proceeds benefit Halloweek Petting Cxw. Havel-Hill Lodge, Burlington 12-1 p.m. \$10. Info: 883-6349

ILLUMINATE THE LAKE. See FRID. 28. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

food & drink

COFFEE TASTING. Sip of Counter Culture Coffee varieties inspire a ride by side comparisons of different regional blends. Halloweek Cxw, Burlington 10 a.m. Free. Info: 817-337-1276, ccccoffee.com

WINE DOWN. Denizens eat, sip over the weekend feast with four different varietals and samples from Lake Champlain Chocolates, Cabot Creamery and other local food producers. Drink, Burlington 4-7 p.m. \$12. Info: 888-9483, lakechamplainsidevillage.com

grooming

BRISKE CLUB. See FRID. 30. 9-10 a.m.

health & fitness

ACRO YOGA. Partner and group work taps into the therapeutic benefits of modified acrobatics. Yoga Mountain Center, Montpelier 9-10 a.m. \$10. Info: 224-1727

RUFFLE D: See MON. 29

REFRESHING VINYASA

YOGA. A lively practice builds strength and flexibility while improving stamina, circulation and range of motion. Contemporary dance & fitness studio, Montpelier 10 a.m.-1 p.m. \$8. Info: 229-4070

Arts & Culture

ARTIST'S NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY. Revelers don formal attire for a year-end bash featuring Champagne, games and live music by Kiki Wright & The Indomitable Soul Band. Artist, Burlington 6 p.m.-midnight. \$15-20. Info: 542-0645

CRICKET BLIND. Armed with a pair of acoustic guitars, the Burlington-based folk duo brings interpretive tunes to the stage. See calendar spotlight, First Congregational Church, Burlington 7 p.m. \$10-20. First Night, Burlington. Free for kids under 18. Info: 863-8225

DAVE KILLER'S NEW YEAR'S EVE EXTRAVAGANZA. Police bad actors to 2014 with the Starline Kryptonite: the Dave Killer Band, Wind Vaca Farm. Three Popcorn, brews and a Champagne toast at midnight. Montpelier City Hall Auditorium 7-10 p.m. 1+ m. \$10-15. Info: 229-4182

FIREWORKS & TORCHLIGHT PARADE. Supperish employees light up Lincoln Peak at this quality New Year's Eve tradition. Supperish (Burlington), Vermont 7 p.m. Call for price. Info: 800-331-3691

FIRST NIGHT BURLINGTON. Falls of all ages cap off 2014 with circus arts, theater, music, dance and fireworks at this substance-free fest. See firstnightburlington.com for details. Various downtown Burlington locations 7-10 p.m. \$10. First Night, Burlington. Free for kids under 3. Some venue shows require additional \$5 tickets. Info: 866-6000

FIRST NIGHT ST. JOHNSBURY. More than 30 acts perform at a five-day celebration of the arts that ends with a dazzling fireworks display. See firstnightstjohnsbury.com for details. Kinross St., Johnsbury locations 4 p.m.-midnight. \$10-20 (separate). Info: 781-2620, info@firstnightstjohnsbury.com

FRANCESCA BLANCHARD. The well-traveled singer talent captures her life experiences in original songs performed in both French and English. See calendar spotlight, First Vermont University Society, Burlington 9 p.m. \$8-10. First Night, Burlington. Free for kids under 18. Info: 605-6005

HYPOTHETICAL REMIXED DUBS. Concerts use music, showgirls and projections as the perfect recipe for audiovisual antics. See calendar spotlight, Fullmetal St., Johnsbury Academy & 8-7 p.m. \$10-20 (separate). Info: 781-2620

HURID THE HANGOVER. Slapstick headbangers delight audience members of all ages and give way to a hypnosis show. Auditorium, Montpelier High School 4-10 & 9-10 p.m. \$5. Free for kids 18 and under. Info: 224-1604

NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATIONS. Family-friendly crafts pave the way for a barn dinner and musical performance by Hovels & Savis. Bethany Church, Montpelier 3 p.m. \$25-30 for dinner and concert. Info: 622-0330

NEW YEAR'S EVE CONCERT. Hovels & Savis and Kelly Jones team up with the Halloweek and the Halloweek Women for a spirited show. Proceeds benefit the Gilbert, Paul & Sue the Dain Fund. Richmond Congregational Church 7-10 p.m. \$10 suggested donation. Info: 434-4583

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12/31 MOUNTAIN FIREWORKS



and torchlight parade at SMR
stowe.com/activities/calendar



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calendar

WED. 12-14-13

NEW YEAR'S EVE CONTRA DANCE: Folks in denim saddle shoes ring in the New Year to music by Cuckoo's Nest and calling by Ruth Sylvester Tracy Hall Novels. Beginner session 7-10 p.m. Dance 8 p.m. \$3-15 bring a snack to share. Info: 753-4037

NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER & THEATER Broadway Star Alisa Orlowski offers cabaret style entertainment after a gourmet dinner. Mediterranean 6:30 p.m. \$55 includes admission to the town hall theater party. cash bar. Info: 383-0032

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY & FIREWORKS: colorful light bursts bloom in the sky as a festive opening act for musical performers. The Girl's Forget Bellmont - Jay Peak Resort. 9 p.m. \$50. for ages 18 and up. Info: 307-2598

NEW YEAR'S EVE ROAD RACE: Athletes and 2014 on a high note and pound the pavement in a 5K. See runners sign for details. Pavilion Building, Montpelier registration: 12:30-1:45 p.m. Race 2 p.m. \$10. info: groups.cornellmail.com

NEW YEAR'S EVE SYMPHONY GALA: The Vermont Symphony Orchestra kicks off the New Year in style with dinner, dancing and big band music. American Hotel & Conference Center South Burlington. 7:30 p.m. \$75. cash bar. pre-purchase info: 803-5066

NUMEROUS ARTS: An evening of social activities precede a circus act to remember. Tricky, identical twins Elise Smith and Seemily Smith. Flanders. See calendar spotlight. Fuller Hall. St. Johnsbury Academy. 5-5:30 p.m. \$30-25. wristband info: 768-2600

OLD LANTERN NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION: Revelers welcome 2013 with top-kat entertainment, cozy fire and midnight toasts. Old Lantern Charlotte. 8 p.m. \$33.50 for ages 21 and up. Info: 603-5086

A BOOM! NEW YEAR'S EVE: Revelers groove to live tunes by the Doughboys. Live under a 70-ft. with a champagne coast on the porch at midnight. Varen Hall Theater. Mediterranean 6 p.m. \$45. cash bar. Info: 383-8032

TIMBERS NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION: Diners ring in 2014 in style with a slope-side feast, followed by live music and plenty of novelty. Timbers Restaurant. Sugarbush Resort. 10:00 a.m. midnight. Prices vary. preceptor info: 353-6033

VAJRAKATYAK NEW YEAR'S PUBLICATION RETREAT: See JAN 26-9 p.m.

A VERY MERRY MIDDLEBURY: Festivities precede the night of December transforms the town into a winter wonderland for the whole family to enjoy. See www.middlebury.com for details. Vermont Middlebury. tickets prices vary. Info: 277-4532

Relax

OPEN SO LOUCE HARDWARE WORKSHOP: Tinkers ages 12 and up learn about chords and more while assembling kits from SparkFun electronics. Riley Public Library. Middlebury. 3:30-4:30 p.m. Free. preceptor: limited space. Info: 388-4935

FIRECHORD MUSIC: Kids ages 4 through 5 sing and dance the afternoon away. Vermont Memorial Library. Caldwell. 1:15-3 p.m. Free. Info: 264-5660

Language

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASS: dig deeper, better the vocabulary. Pickering. New. Fletcher Park Library. Burlington. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Info: 863-3311

INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASS: Students sharpen grammar and conversational skills. Administration Office. Fletcher Park Library. Burlington. 8:30-9:30 p.m. Free. Info: 863-3311

Music

AN INTIMATE EVENING WITH JAMES TWILDE: SOLD OUT! The Grammy Award winning folk troubadour performs a benefit concert for the Tipton Peak Arts Foundation. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center. Snow Mountain Resort. 8:30 p.m. \$12-1500. Info: 360-4534

outdoors

SLOSH RIDES: See FEB 26-10 a.m. 2 p.m.

THU. 1

Holidays

VAJRAKATYAK NEW YEAR'S PURIFICATION RETREAT: See JAN 26-9 p.m.

recreation

GREEN MOUNTAIN MAHLE FESTIVAL: Community singers and string players deliver a grand performance at cathedral's North benefiting the Vermont Family Network. Riley Long House. Center St. Middlebury. 6:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m. \$10-25. Info: 862-8966

outdoors

SLOSH RIDES: See FEB 26-10 a.m. 2 p.m.

exercise

FURST RUN: Athletes of all ages start 2013 off on the right foot on a 5K course through downtown. See runner's pack. for details. Vermont Audubon. Burlington. registration: 9:30-10:45 a.m. with 5:00-10:30 a.m. \$3-11 a.m. \$5-15. Info: 863-6432

FRI. 2

dance

BOOY CAMP FOR DANCERS: See MON 29-5-6:15 p.m.

HALF OFF
for the
HOLIDAYS

Naughty or nice, it's time to cozy up!

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QUEEN CITY TANGO PRACTICES

Concert kick off the weekend with improvisation, camaraderie and laughter. No partner necessary, but class smoothly soloed shoes required. North End Studio 6 Burlington 7:30-10 p.m. \$1. info: 807 6544

drinks

SHARP PAWNS WINE DOWN: Live music and local beer and wine served up at a posh setting, make for an ideal end to the workweek. See www.sharppawns.com for details. Snow Farm Vineyard, South Hero 6 p.m. Cost of drinks. info: 201 9463

films

WARRIOR BELLER'S TWO TURNING BACK: See SUN 28

game

PROBIE CLUB: See FR 26

health & fitness

AVOID FALLS WITH IMPROVED STABILITY: See FR 26

LAUGHTER YOGA: See FR 26

YOGA CONSULT: See FR 26

radio

EARLY RISE RADIO: See FR 26

style

FIRST FRIDAY: Gals and drags make for a memorable queer dance party. Higher Ground, South Burlington 9 p.m. \$3-10. info: 877 980-6867

talk

GROWING OLDER DISCUSSION GROUP: See FR 26

SAT.3**dance**

BURLINGTON WESTIE DANCE: Movers and shakers in Saturday. There's groove to a Forest of Queens and West. Cost: swing. North End Studios, Burlington introductory lesson 6:30 p.m., workshop 7 p.m. dance 8-11 p.m. \$10-15. info: berlin.groovesat3@gmail.com

'GORTON ABBEY' DANCE PARTY

Fans of the popular PBS series dress in their finest characters and hit the dance floor for an evening of fancy footwork. The Wilburton Inn, Manchester 8-10:10 p.m. \$4-10 cash bar. info: 361-4500 bedandbrunch@jellymail.com

SHAKE-UP DANCE PARTY

Rockers move to hard tunes at this sixth annual benefit for Women Access to Reproductive Freedom. Union Station Burlington 8 p.m. 1 a.m. \$12-100 suggested donation. cash bar. info: 333 3390

**food & drink****BURLINGTON WINTER FARMERS**

MARKET: Farmers, artisans and producers offer fresh and prepared foods, crafts, and more in a bustling indoor marketplace with live music, lunch seating, and face painting. Memorial Auditorium Burlington 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. info: 261-5107

CALADONIA WINTER FARMERS MARKET:

fresh baked goods, veggies, beef and maple syrup encourage loaders to shop locally. Wilburton Center St. Johnsbury 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. info: 261-2000

CAPITAL CITY WINTER FARMERS

MARKET: fresh veggies, honey, maple syrup and more change hands on an off-season celebration of locally grown food. Montpelier City Hall 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. info: 223-2508

CHOCOLATE TASTING: See SAT 27**RUTLAND WINTER FARMERS MARKET:**

See SAT 27

WINE TASTING: Tinklers sip red, white and wine originating in the mountains of Italy's famed Piedmont region. Tapp Family Lodge, Stowe 4-6 p.m. \$20. preregister. info: 233-5742

health & fitness**BETTER HEALTH HERMIOLOGY FOR CHRONIC & RECURRING HEALTH ISSUES:**

Jessica Haseley explores the ancient art of finding meaning and potential in different number combinations. Community Room, Hunger Mountain Co-op, Montpelier 7-2:15 p.m. Free. preregister. info: 261-6902 ext. 201

PRANAYAMA YOGA & RAPPE: See SAT 27

R.I.P.F.I.E.D.: See SAT 27**radio**

A VERY HERRY HIGGLES LIFT: See WED 31

radio

YOGA TIPS: Pop-IT! instructor Jessica Pratt leads little ones ages 3 through 8 in poses that focus their energy and relax their minds. Community Room, Higher Ground, Burlington 9 a.m. Free. preregister. info: 688-8877

music**WILTON COMMUNITY COFFERHOUSE:**

Local performers warm up the atmosphere for an acoustic set by localists Ravi Asha and guitarist, Deep Ryan. Ripston Community House 7:30 p.m. \$2-10. info: 368-5782

outdoors

FALL MOON SHOWDOWN HERE: Nature lovers explore Montpelier's hillsides by lantern light. Snowshoes and hot chocolate provided. North Branch Natural Center Montpelier 7-10:30 p.m. \$10. preregister. info: 276-6000

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Great Mountain View. Littleton, Lake. Woodbury

Mountain Brewery, Weybridge



104.7 & 93.3 BURLINGTON
95.1 MIDDLEBURY
104.1 & 100.3 MIDDLEBURY
95.1 THE HARTSLAND JORDON
103.5 & 102.7 THE UPPER VALLEY

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...AND LOVIN' IT!

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NEW THIS WEEK!



December 26, 2014

Whitaker isn't wearing his in February Manor South senior community or burning, like to read with kids at the Weston library, registered doggie cat Van Gogh is unusually calm with people, it's his favorite. Students. LoveLife.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:



DECEMBER 16, 2014

Durham High School where Kate Wetherhead, who appeared on Broadway in Legally Blonde, recently taught up and coming Vermont students how to act in auditions.



DECEMBER 03, 2014

Eva Sollberger's got us back for a trip to her Montreal "club culture" with her new book, "Time at My Cat's Bar."



NOVEMBER 26, 2014

Playing soccer while bouncing around in a pool, and while both sounds like fun, this *Bumble* Soccer video is for you. Eva Sollberger joined staff writer Cohen de Soete for a couple bottles of the bottle.

calendar

501.3.8742

MAINFIELD RIDGE Hike. Adventure seekers stroll on snowshoes for a difficult 6 to 8 mile trek to the summit of Mount Mansfield. Contact trip leader for details. (Mainfield State Park, 8 a.m. free pre-registration. limited space. Info: 805-2362)

SLEIGH RIDES. Giddy up! Weather permitting, horse-drawn folk over snow covered open fields. Riders leave every half hour, seats are first come, first served. Shelburne Farms. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. \$8. 100 free tickets 2 and under. Info: 885-6442

sevendayvmt

VCAM ORIENTATION. Video production classes, VCAI Basic concepts and some substitute at an overview of VCAI facilities, policies and procedures. VCAI Studio, Burlington. 9 a.m. Free. Info: 501-5652

SUN.4

community

OK AIG PRACTICE. See SUN 28.

games

SHINNERS SUPER BINGO. Players with five in a row win big at this monthly meet-up. Champaign Valley Exposition. Essex Junction. 11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. \$3.00 for 10 cards. Info: 434-2035

health & fitness

MA WITH SUZIE. See SUN 28
SUNDAY SAMRA. COMMUNITY ASHTANGA YOGA. See SUN 28

kids

KIDS YOGA. See SUN 28.

RUSSIAN PLAY TIME WITH NATASHA. Neighbors up to age 12 learn new words, rhymes, games, music, dance and puppet show. Outrigger Noodles. Williston. 11:45 a.m. Free. Info: 364-1810

language

OMAKINES FRENCH CONVERSATION. See SUN 28

music

SHINN NORTH BIG BAND. The 18 piece band brings jazz, pop, ballads and covers and croons to "Swinging Gophers Celebration" St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Newport. 4 p.m. \$10. Info: 334-2365

outdoors

SLEIGH RIDES. See SAT 3

theater

"THE SECRET GARDEN" Opera theatre of Weston adapts Frances Hodgson Burnett's timeless tale for the stage. Paramount Theatre. Rutland. 2 p.m. \$15. 30. Info: 735-0953.

MON.5

community

PUBLIC HEARING. The Williston Townboard hosts a meeting about proposed amendments to zoning bylaws followed by an examination of town budgets for the years 2016-2020. Meeting News. Williston Town Hall. 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 836-0810

games

BINGO CLUB. See FRIDAY 28

health & fitness

AVOID FALLS WITH IMPROVED STABILITY. See FRIDAY 28

PRIENAL YOGA & BARRE. See SAT 27
10:15 - 11:15 & 2-6 p.m.
RUFFLE. See MON 26

kids

ALICE IN WONDERLAND. Youngsters get acquainted over crafts and play while new parents and expectant mothers chat with maternity nurse and lactation consultant Alice Gouger. Outrigger Noodles. Williston. 10:15 a.m. Free. Info: 364-1810

KIDS YOGA. See MON 26

STORIES WITH MEGAN. Exploring tales of children reading books to ages 2 through 4. Robert Hillier Community & Recreation Center. Burlington. 10-11:30 a.m. Free. Info: 865-1010

outdoors

FALL MOON SLEIGH RIDE. Weather permitting, families join Pat Palmer of Therapeutic Farm and his team of draft horses for an excursion across open spaces. Shelburne Farms. 5:30 - 6:05 & 6:40 p.m. \$8. 10. Free for kids 2 and under. pre-registration. Info: 885-6666

TUE.6

business

BUSINESS VISIONING FOR THE NEW YEAR. Small business mentor Jason Pughlian helps professionals craft a well-considered vision statement. Community House. Harlow Mountains Co. Inc. Montpelier. 9:30 - 10:30 p.m. Free. pre-registration. Info: 323-8660 ext. 202.

community

ELLEN MANDOLIN. The UVM biologist discusses the health of Lake Trout in Champlain at Central Vermont Trout Unlimited's open meeting. Holding Inn. South Burlington. 7 p.m. Free. Info: phood@uvm.edu

TUESDAY VOLUNTEER NIGHTS. See TUE 30

dance

INTRO TO TRIBAL BELLY DANCE. See TUE 30

SHINN DANCE PRACTICE SESSION. See TUE 30

games

GAMING FOR TEENS & ADULTS. See TUE 30

sponsored by



health & fitness

INTRO TO YOGA: See TUE 3D

JAZZercise LITE, Adults ages 50+ and up/begin a workout in a supportive environment. Essex Junction Senior Center 8 a.m. \$4.35. info: 875-5687

JUICING FOR WEIGHT LOSS & VITALITY: Stacy Harris of Essex Wood Natural Health Center identifies common challenges these juicers face and specific plans for reaching personal health goals. 10 a.m. 4 Juice Burlington 5:30-7 p.m. Free. info: 884-2822

NIA WITH SUZIE: See TUE 3D

PEE-WEE PILATES: Moms engage with their babies in a whole-body workout. Perennial Method Studio, Burlington. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. \$5. info: 825-5271

PRENATAL YOGA & BABE: See SAT 27 12-1-11 5 & 4-30-6 3 p.m.

Arts

CREATIVE THURSDAYS: Artists exercise their imaginations with recycled craft. Kids under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Fletcher Free Library, Burlington 3-5 p.m. Free. info: 884-2026

HOMESIDE SKATE RITE: Tyler up to preschool age/plus up their skates, include across the rink. Highgate Sports Arena. 10 a.m. & 2 p.m. Free. info: 884-2890

MUSIC WITHIN DREAMS: Singer/storyteller and puppeteer Chris Dorman entertains lyrics and their parents. Outcasted Noctules. Winton 10-10:30 a.m. Free. info: 764-4810

STORIES WITH MUSIC: See MON 3 Fletcher Free Lib. w/ Burlington 11-11:30 a.m. Free. info: 884-2026

YOGA TUESDAY: See TUE 3D

WED. 7

community

PEER SUPPORT CIRCLE: See WED 31

dance

SHANTALA SHIKHUKAPPA: The master of the classic Indian dance Kuchipudi elevates her craft to visual storytelling. Maine Theater Hapstead Center, Dartmouth College, Hanover N.H. 7 p.m. \$17-40. info: 603-648-2422

food & drink

COFFEE TASTING: See WED 31

WICKEMEYER WINE DOWN: See WED 31

games

ORANGE CLUB: See THU 20 5-5:15 a.m.

health & fitness

EATING WELL ON A BUDGET: From smart shopping to meal planning, a weekly workshop with Frances Fleming of UVM Extension highlights ways to save and get healthy. Community Room, Hunger Prevention Corp. Montpelier 5:30-7 p.m. Free. info: 875-2025 ext. 202

INSIGHT PRACTITIONER: A supportive environment allows for a deeper understanding of Buddhist principles and practices. Writings: Mental Health and Wellness Center, Haverhill 5-10:30 p.m. Free. info: 432-5594

PRENATAL YOGA & BABE: See SAT 27 12-1-11 5 & 4-30-6 3 p.m.

R.I.P.F.I.L.O.: See MON 25

Arts

HIST ROCKIN' WITH THE FRIENDLY PRIVATE: Acrylic master Youngsters channel the nostalgia of the sex-daring music, games and activities. Outcasted Noctules. Winton 10-10:30 a.m. Free. info: 764-4810

STORY TIME & PLAYGROUP: Engaging narratives provide the way for art, music and cooking projects. Joseph Public Library, Marshfield 10-11:30 a.m. Free. info: 476-4581

Language

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASS: See WED 31

GERMAN-ENGLISH CONVERSATION GROUP: Community members practice conversing w/ German. Local history room, Fletcher Free Library, Burlington 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. info: 884-2026

INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASS: See WED 31

sports

PRIMEIR FLOOR HOCKEY LEAGUE: Experienced players and/or the pool in a competitive setting. The Edge Sports & Fitness, Essex 7-10 p.m. \$50. jperreault. info: 355-4548

Arts

ALLEN KROPP: The Dartmouth College professor cautions the history traditions and legends of the Appalachian Mountain Club's hut system in New Hampshire. St. Johnsbury Athenaeum 3-8:30 p.m. Free. info: 748-6231

JAMES HANCOCK: In "Georgia O'Keeffe & O'Keeffe Land," the former husband's American paintings at Saturday 5 and Christ's nuclear holocaust evoke and the artist's best work. Norwich Congregational Church 3-8:30 p.m. Free. info: 849-784

PAM PEARSON: the director of the International Cryosphere Climate Initiative explores the impact of global warming on the Earth's ice- and snow-covered regions. Hapstead Hubstad Library, Montpelier 3-4:30 p.m. Free. info: 223-9338

RENEE LINDENBAUM: Reflecting on four decades of her mother's paintings, the author and daughter of artist Charles presents "Dancing Against Wind and Tide: The Jewels and Letters of Anne Marie Lindenberg." Islander Press Library, 3-8:30 p.m. Free. info: 773-1860

ROSEMARY GLAZZIER: the renowned herbalist examines the history of herbals and its role in health care today. Joseph Public Library, Middlebury 7-8:30 p.m. Free. info: 368-4058

SUSANNE CLAXTON: the philosophy scholar shares her wisdom in "The Connected Life." Goodrich Memorial Library, Newport 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free. info: 334-7922



W/ TH

BEETHOVEN'S NINTH SYMPHONY
Elley-Low Music Center

1/16 SU

JOHANNES STRING QUARTET WITH FRED CHILLO
"Beethoven and Bartók"
MainStage

1/2 FR

YOUNG TRADITION REUNION CONCERT
w/Orchest Blue, Eric George, Adde Herbert, Chris Dorman, Hannah Fair
FlynnSpace

1/20 TU

TRAGICALLY HIP
MainStage

1/3 SA

YOUNG TRADITION REUNION CONCERT
w/Orchest Blue and Les Posies
a Colin's special guest
FlynnSpace

1/22 TH

"TREASURE ISLAND"
Palace 9 Cinema

1/8 TH

MAT FRASER & JULIE ATLAS MUZ
"The Frank and the Showgirl"
FlynnSpace

1/24 SA

VSO MASTERWORKS
MainStage

1/10 SA

"STAND UP, SIT DOWN, & LAUGH"
FlynnSpace

1/25 SU

VVO WINTER CONCERT
MainStage

1/13 TU

VVO CHORUS & CONCERT CHORAL
Elley-Low Music Center

1/26 WE

"OR"
FlynnSpace (1/28-2/15)

1/16 FR

PRIDE OF NEW YORK
All Souls Hapstead Gathering

1/30 FR

TERRI LYNE CARRINGTON QUARTET
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TO WATCH VIDEOS
OF THE ARTISTS
SEE PAGE 9



The Best Around

The local scene weighs in on the best records of 2014

BY DAN ROLLES

Where at Sever Digs spend a lot of time listening to local music. It often makes us wonder what the musicians who make that music have in it. So each year we email local musicians, club owners, booking agents and other musoed scenarios to find out what music, local and otherwise, rocked their worlds over the previous 12 months. Here's what they said: **D**

PETE BAIN: LAST SUPERIOR PETS, PEE

LOCAL: *Revolving World, MMXXIV*
MUSICAL: Kaleo, Kaleo

MARK SCHWING: BLACK BARRI

LOCAL: *Screaming Wolf, MMXXIV*
MUSICAL: Ex Hyl, Rye

Says Schwing: Three-chord rock is the tradition of all my favorite 1970s punk and New Wave bands. The Hyl is also my nomination for show of the year, at the Maskey House in October.

ERIC OLSEN: SMALLE

LOCAL: *POETS, POETS*

Says Olsen: It's like analogic alchemy. They're level-42 sounds.
MUSICAL: Miss Calden Messenger, Lateness of Drivers

KEELY PIEL: BORDON: STRAIGHT RECORDS: GIRL RICK

LOCAL: *Screaming Wolf, MMXXIV*

MUSICAL: *Pusher* at 2 the Lane, *Pusher* at 2 the Lane

MICHAEL ROBERTS: WOODEN SHOGAR: THE NEAR DETROITERS

LOCAL: *Apogee, Chapel EP*

MUSICAL: Miss Calden Messenger, Lateness of Drivers

SAMMY COANE: THE STABLEMENT: THE PETS

LOCAL: *Barbarian, Italian Maple*

Says Coane: Bill Mullins has the touch, tone and great melodic sense for this style of instrumental guitar music. Bill's the king around here!
MUSICAL: No Plan, *Philly Playz*, *Philly Playz*, *Philly Playz*

ROBERT HENRI: MOST OF 'ALL THE TRADITIONS' EP: SEVEN

LOCAL: *Rob Adams & Company: Crossing, Savile*

MUSICAL: *Yard*, *Idara, Tell 'Em You Love*

PHIL TAYLOR: PHIL TAYLOR: THE AFFAIR

LOCAL: *The Viceroy Lane, Departure*

Says Taylor: They still count as local, right?
MUSICAL: *The New Musicists, Into the Lane*

PAT WINTERSON: JARVIS BYRNE, BOWLING BONES

LOCAL: *Weylan Speed, Kin*
MUSICAL: *The Barry Brothers, Sleeping Operator, Damon Albarn, Everyday Robots*

KYLE THOMPSON: DJ FASTER

LOCAL: *The Write Brothers, Take Flight*

Says Thompson: Hands down the best hip-hop album ever to come out of Vermont.
(Take's cuts. Yep.)
MUSICAL: *Prison, Art Official Age*

REAGANER: RYAN CHISHAM: THE LANE: THE WINE, THE

LOCAL: *Lane*

Says Chisham: *Stranger's Advice*
MUSICAL: *St. Vincent, St. Vincent*

SCOTT LAMILLA: THE LYNCHING: THE LYNCHING

LOCAL: *Smooth Justice, Smooth Justice*
MUSICAL: *Currently, Juggernaut, Strange Journey*

RYAN HILLER: HILLER

LOCAL: *Smile, The Next Instead*

MUSICAL: *ED, ED*

HEIDI JACKSON: LISTEN TO THE NIGHT: THE NIGHT

LOCAL: *Steve Blue, Split, Grin*

MUSICAL: *Billy Childs, Map to the Treasure*

PHILIP BURN: GRAVE PITTER: THE NIGHT

LOCAL: *Caroline Rose, I Will Not Be Afraid*
MUSICAL: *The War on Drugs, Last in the Street, Strung! Suspense, Mervyn's Sounds in Country*

ROBERT BACCHER: JR. BACCHER: BACCHER

LOCAL: *Smile, The Next Instead, Death, III*

MUSICAL: *Three Oh Sea, Day*

PHILIP ONLY: PHILIP

LOCAL: *Caroline Rose, I Will Not Be Afraid*

MUSICAL: *Sylvia Esso, Sylvia Esso*

CAROLINE GUNNING: VERONA

LOCAL: *Anders Parker, There's a Blackbird in My Heart; The Cash, Transcendental Romance*

Says Gunning: Yeah, I know, the Cash live in Texas now. But they'll always be local around here.
MUSICAL: *The War on Drugs, Last in the Street*

ALAN BACCHER: BACCHER: BACCHER

LOCAL: *Weylan Speed, Kin*

MUSICAL: *Vulpecula, Angus Stone*

JUSTIN ISLAND: WINDY: THE WINDY: THE WINDY

LOCAL: *The Write Brothers, Take Flight*

MUSICAL: *That Handsome Devil, Drugs and Guns for Everyone*

JON FLANAGAN: FLANAGAN: SEVEN CENTS

LOCAL: *Cartoon, Cartoon*

Says Flanagan: These Windsor guys' all-systems go energy seems to have burst off any homogenized residue that often coats — and sometimes wrecks — well-intentioned local endeavors. They throw way down and write their straight. No money required from the listener. I visit their handcamp page to store on Carfax plenty. (Dear Cartia, I probably owe you some money.)
MUSICAL: *Tomorrow's Tulips, When*

DAVE KELLEY: DAVE KELLEY: DAVE

LOCAL: *Philly Playz, Philly Playz*

MUSICAL: *Gregory Porter, Liquid Spirit*

CANDY MITCHELL: CJ

LOCAL: *The DePest Brothers, Harry at Last*

MUSICAL: *Prison, Art Official Age*

SCOTT BACCHER: BACCHER: BACCHER

LOCAL: *Caroline Rose, I Will Not Be Afraid*

Says Baccher: The production and take on this album is so good. "Blood on Your Boots" is an absolute gem with a critique of white privilege that seems impossible in the genre, but which feels completely natural. Caroline Rose speaks truth to power in surprising and necessary ways.
MUSICAL: *Jenny Holzer, Heyland*

SOUNDbites

BY ZAN BOLLES



Karl Wright & the Moldy Indecent (front band)

It Was a Very Good Year

Wellcome, friends, to the last Soundbites column of 2013. With New Year's Eve looming, there is certainly a lot to get to. But before we look forward, let's take a moment to look back and close the book on some of the stories that shaped the past year in local music.

2013 was the year of the music festival. From May to September, hardly a weekend passed without some outdoor festivity or another, many of them new, Burlington and various locales around the state. In vignettes that were faithful that it caused some of us — OK, me — to wonder if the region might be experiencing a bit of festival fatigue by late September 2013, it's hard to complete about how much a good thing some highlights.

The fourth iteration of the Waking Windows music and arts festival in May was the biggest and best yet. Transforming downtown Winooski into one giant, hand-drawn circular nightclub, the four-day blowout delivered more than 100 cutting-edge acts of local, regional and national renown. And all for \$20, or less than your average ticket to see any PINK Floyd or BEATLES tribute band. So successful was the fest that the two primary architects behind it, ANGIOPLASTY PRISM and KEEF PRESIDENT, merged into a single entity of unified redness, WAKING WINDOWS PRESENTS.

That crew has been responsible for a considerable number of great shows since, such as a NATIONAL BLUE HELL, two night stand, FUTURE ISLANDS, NEIL CLINE AND JARVIS LAGE, REDDER AND BURNING PLANET — the last of which was recently named the best live act of the year by the scribes at *Poste magazine*.

(A quick aside: A good number of the 25 bands on that list played in Vermont this year — though we're still waiting on KISS and AC/DC covers. My friend to one of those people who complains that nothing cool ever happens here, shut up.)

While Waking Windows expanded its scope, another local fest, the Precipice, contracted. And it was a smart move by the folks from Radio Bean. Though smaller than the previous year by about half, the fourth annual Precipice was probably twice as much fun, which is saying something. Condemned to two facing stages and array of food and crafts booths in the field behind Burlington College, the Precipice retained its mysterious and eclectic feel but was far more intimate — it was sort of like hanging out at the Bean, but outside.

The Burlington College grounds was also the site of another festival, WYSEWYG, produced by the

ambitious kids from Signal Kitchen. A bit more upscale and with a wider focus on lacrosse food and art in addition to music, the debut edition of WYSEWYG was a promising, if not quite overwhelming, event. If nothing else, it was interesting to see how ALAN KATZ and his SK crew used the space, in comparison to previous Precipice setups. Answer: quite reasonably, thank you. In fact, it's likely music festivals were just about the only things that went right at Burlington College this year. Something to watch in 2014: how the impending purchase of that parcel of land will impact future events there.

Should someone event, for example, condos on that spot, Oakledge Park might make for a suitable alternative, as we learned when *more music* and his Skinny Pancake pals held the first-ever Sat by Northeast festival there in September. Though more of a food festival with a side of music, EXN3S was intriguing — and fun! When I spoke to Adler at Grand Point North the weekend before EXN3S, he was already wishing he'd booked up the musical library. In retrospect, I'd agree that more rocking would have been welcome. I'd also suggest not scheduling the fest the

SOUNDBITES BY ZAN

live culture
VERMONT ARTS NEWS + VIEWS

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DECEMBER

WED. 12/11 - THU. 12/12
THE DEVIL MAKES THREE
LOU FLETCHER & THE WRONG REASONS

WED. 12/18 - THU. 12/19
MOON HOOCH
GNOMEDAD

JANUARY

WED. 1/8 - THU. 1/9
POP-UP A QUEER DANCE PARTY
BY ROB DOUGLAS, DJ LUU

WED. 1/15 - THU. 1/16
FOUR YEAR STRONG
EXPIRE, MANICAINS, HEART TO HEART

WED. 1/22 - THU. 1/23
PARTICLE

WED. 1/29 - THU. 1/30
KARMA TO BURN
SIBERIA, NEEDLE DICK & THE BUG FUCKERS

WED. 1/29 - THU. 1/30
THAT GUY
DJ FEELS GOODMAN

WED. 1/29 - THU. 1/30
DR. DOG
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The Best Around

JEFFERY DORNIER: ROCK SOUNDS, GET ITCHY RECORDS

LOCAL Gorge, Secret Tyler Dornier
Tone, Repetition Vol. 1 The New & Very Welcome
NONLOCAL Violent J, Nothing As
B Acorns, Cottage Clock, Cottage
Clock

JEFFERY DORNIER: HAZARD SPELL
SEREN DAYS CENTER/STONE

Says Crawford: It's been 1995, so I'm not sure it counts. But I recently discovered them and thought they had some great songs. I also imagined they would go some pretty far if they would've stayed together. (Editor's note: They did! The key members of Seren moved to Boston and became the Red Telephone. They are still together.)
NONLOCAL Jeff Along, Get Discovered

KRISTIE LANGER: VIDEOS GET RICH
SPEAKER MUSIC

LOCAL Chaz, Chaz
Says Langer: This collection of songs stands up to almost any heavy-metal record from 1980 to the present day. It was and was not with enough power that the album has already been picked up by A&M Records overseas. I have to mention Chaz in my favorite "local" record before the band soon finds itself on Top 10 lists across the world! Vermont kid!

NONLOCAL Nihilism & Babylon, Do It Again

ERINNA WAGLE: DJ BRICK PHANTOM: NEWARK WINDING PRESENTS

LOCAL Smoke, The Next Instead, Pines, Pines

NONLOCAL Future Islands, Singles

BYRON FARRIZZO: FOUND

LOCAL Smoke, The Next Instead

NONLOCAL Shabazz Paddles, Love Mistry

GARY LEE MILLER: WRITERS, SEREN DAYS CENTER/STONE

LOCAL Mark Le Grand, Burn It Down
Says Miller: Favorite local album

that didn't happen. The one that is made Brett Hughes' beautiful mind writing to come out. 2015 pretty please!

NONLOCAL Strangli Simpson, Metamodern Sounds in Country Music

RYAN CLARSON: NEUTRAL D DEADSET

LOCAL The Precepts, This Is How It Must Be

NONLOCAL Tusk, Colours

HATTEY PUNTER: BURNING

LOCAL Muzzle, Call of the Mountains

NONLOCAL Colapop, Ghost Stars

JEFF FARRIZZO: 100% HIGH MARE

LOCAL Elphabits of Scotland, Elphabits

NONLOCAL GIVE yteDa, Nihil Nihil

HYPERBOLIC: 100%

LOCAL Pines, Pines

NONLOCAL Future Islands, Singles

ERINNA WAGLE: 100% HIGH MARE

LOCAL Violent J, Chaz, Chaz

Says Dornier: This music reminds me of Vermont. It's beautiful, well worn and lies in a corner of lonely backwoods rambling and someone making poetry in their something being.

NONLOCAL La Faze, Ends in Gayville

ALEXANDER: 100% HIGH MARE

LOCAL Caroline Rose, I Want Not Be Afraid, Smoke, The Next Instead

NONLOCAL Hard to Inspire, Strangli Simpson, Seline Raza, Future Islands, Ali J, Mac DeMarco, Legs, the War on Drugs.

WILLIAM: 100% HIGH MARE

LOCAL A.E. of the A, A big house to those who make albums

NONLOCAL All the ones made with no other reason than music in mind

music

CLUB DATES

ALL INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE



SAT.27 SUN.28 / TWIDDLE (JAM)

Jam On Since forming at Carleton State College in 2004, Twiddle have become one of the state's best-known musical exports. Known far and wide for improvisational prowess, the quartet draws an element of jazz, classical and bluegrass, with firm footing in reggae, funk and rock, to form a kaleidoscope sound they call "the del' shield." Catch Twiddle at the Higher Ground Ballroom in South Burlington on Saturday and Sunday, December 27 and 28, with local reggae-proceeds outfit **TRIPLE HOUND**.

FRI.26

Burlington

BURNT Open improvisation. 8 p.m. free.

BLU NIGHT BLAST SEAFORD Whiskey Whiffle (free) 8 p.m. \$10 p.m. free

CLUB HYPHENOTE Rock to the Future Festival (FREE) 8 p.m. \$10 p.m. free

FRANKIE STYL All American (free) 8 p.m. free

JANIS Punk Punk Punk (free) 8 p.m. free

THE LUGGERS AT DOWNS. Country Showcase (free) 8 p.m. \$10 p.m. free

NEUTR D 100% HIGH MARE (free) 8 p.m. \$10 p.m. free

RADIO HEAD COTTON EYES 8 p.m. \$10 p.m. free

SMITH 8 p.m. \$10 p.m. free

THE LUGGERS 8 p.m. \$10 p.m. free

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SAT.27

Burlington

BLU NIGHT BLAST SEAFORD The Tone (free) 8 p.m. \$10 p.m. free

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BLU NIGHT BLAST SEAFORD The Tone (free) 8 p.m. \$10 p.m. free

SOUNDbites

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5



we're all following GPN — see festival fatigue, above. Still, the introduction of Outkicks as a festival venue — many years ago it was home to the Vermont Ragga Festival — won itself a stroke of brilliance.

Moving on, 2015 saw the passing of several notable acts in the local music scene. **J.J. PALLARDU**, the longtime WRGV DJ and beloved, if not entirely easily

"Good Curmudgeons." Went to the guys' jazz club in the city in December. Stagnant guitar and vocalist **JOE PALLARDU** died in August, leaving behind a legacy of monster riffs and devilishly wry one-liners. In April, **WAYNE BEAN**, a fixture at more nightclubs than we can count, passed suddenly. We'll miss his warm, goofy, gap-toothed grin. And in January we lost **WILLIAM PARRIS**, cofounder of punk pioneers the **RAMBL**, considered by many to be the first punk band in Vermont by the way, you can catch the surviving members of the Words at Radio Beat in Burlington on Sunday, December 28.

On August 20, Burlington celebrated the first A-Dog Day, in honor of the late **ANDY WILLIAMS**, the beloved R&B artist and sketch-comer who passed away following a yearlong battle with leukemia in late December 2013. The citywide bash was a party fit for a king. It will be interesting to see how the organizers that bear his name and was responsible for the

celebration, the Friends for A-Dog Foundation, continues to grow and expand on its mission in the coming year. We miss you, Andy.

In other news, Canada's usual restrictions on foreign bands performing in small venues, making it easier than ever for Vermont acts to cross the border legally. Longtime area band **MARK HANCOX**, now based in Montreal, was diagnosed with, and then beat, throat cancer. **GRANDWIGGERS**, the bean-knower hardcore band in VT history, reunited very soon, possibly the most return-to-punk band in VT history broke up. And **ORACLE POTTER** using the national anthem at the NFL Pro Bowl, which, all things considered, was probably the best thing to happen to the NFL this year.

Auld Acquaintances

New Year's Eve is typically celebrated. But I have high hopes for this year, because an unprecedented amount of half-dragging local awareness is on tap to help ring in 2015. Seriously, check this out:

Following in the footsteps of **ORACLE POTTER** & THE NOCTURNALS and

WHEELHOUSE, folkpunk festalchore returns the **ONE, TWO, THREE** headline NYE at the Higher Ground Ballrooms. (Pro tip: Show up early for Providence experts **JACALIERA** & **THE WRONG REASON**, who are currently making waves in Vintage-in-salty-circles in Nashville.)

Moving west, the Monkey House has outdoor rock rockers **WALTON BRASS** — a band I'd never might soon inherit that performs THE Ballroom NYE at the station. They're joined by local stoner metal acolytes — and occasional stard rockers — **VULCANIC ORCA**.

Radio Beat — "A musical scene" — hosts Burlington's sons of **LOUIS**, **ROCKAWAY**, **FRANCE**, and the **BLACKBAGGERS**, two of the most entertaining live acts around, albeit for wildly different reasons. (Full disclosure: **RF**'s **BOBBY THURBERG JR.** is a 7D employee.)

If you're wondering why **RAY MONROE** & **THE WOODSTOCK** band aren't at the Beat, the past where the band got its start, it's because they're at Artisphere for a Champagne-cork-popping formal and **Radi**, you could do worse than to check out a pair of exciting newcomers in **SHINNY PANCAKE** and **GRANDWIGGERS** at the Skanky Pansies.

Indie rock fans will want to be at **Nectar's**, which hosts **BEATWORM**, **WILLOWHOLE**, **PAPER CASTLES** and second-tier **PERABE** with **WIGGERS** — formerly known as **PLATE GAMES** and **SAF** and, as of this writing, still currently known as **Madala**. Meanwhile, the inn inclined can get special dose of **Midwest Ragga** Night upstairs at Club Metronome.

So, yeah. That's one hell of a New Year's Eve, right? Enjoy it. To us, And we'll see you in 2015. ☺

Listening In

A good ol' what was in the iPod, Radio Beat night showcase? See, below.

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MONIA, **Chloe** and **Clare**.

ANDREW, **Geography Music**.

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NORTH VERMONT LOCALS



Dr. Feelgood **know how to party** That makes sense, given that the band hails from New Orleans. The instrumental funk ensemble incorporates all manner of Crescent City motifs into its explosive, groovy-heavy sound. But most importantly, it embodies the wild, good-times spirit of the Reg. Easy Naugley Professor play Nottori's in Burlington on Saturday, January 3, with local JAWBYTOWN.

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northwest kingdom
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THE STAGE **10PM-12AM**
W/ JAWBYTOWN 11PM-12AM
165 CHURCH ST. • RTV • 800-399-2645

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W/ JAWBYTOWN 11PM-12AM
165 CHURCH ST. • RTV • 800-399-2645

OLD NORTHERN PUB **10PM-12AM**
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SHORELINE CONFESSIONS **10PM-12AM**
W/ JAWBYTOWN 11PM-12AM
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THE LIONHEART PANDORA **10PM-12AM**
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- Weekly picks for exhibits
- "Moves You Missed" by Margaret Harrison
- News, profiles and reviews

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SEVENDAYSVT.COM/REVIEW

music

CLUB DATES

BAKERSFIELD, AA, 80, 80L

WED.28

northeast kingdom
THE STAGE: Open MIC, 10:30pm, free

MON.29

burlington

CLUB HETTERIDGE: Metal Monday: Armies: Made
with us 10:30, 10:30, 10:30

HEAVY 10:5: Strongly Comedy: Last Match 10:
pm, free

HALLOWEEN SPOKEHEAD: Family Night (free)
10:30 pm, free

JP 10:30: Open Mic: Open Night: Open Night with
Heavily 10:30 pm, free

HEAVY 10:5: The Great Set: Backstage (free)
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WED.31

burlington

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northeast kingdom

THE STAGE Jay Melale (solo work) 7pm-9pm

FRI.12

burlington

BENTZ Open improvisation Jam 10pm-1am

BLUE/NORTHEAST SEASIDE James Harvey Tree 10pm-12:30am

CLUB HERRING Hack the Future Tring 10pm-12:30am

FOURMAD & Public John Deemer (preppy) 10pm-1am

JUMPIN' James English (jumper songbook) 10pm-12:30am

THE LARGEST HIT DRINK Corvallis Showcase (solo work) 10pm-12:30am

NEEDS & Sides James Harvey Tree 10pm-12:30am

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SAT.13

burlington

BLUE/NORTHEAST SEASIDE Andrew Moses 10pm-12:30am

CLUB HERRING Hack the Future Tring 10pm-12:30am

FOURMAD & Public John Deemer (preppy) 10pm-1am

JUMPIN' James English (jumper songbook) 10pm-12:30am

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artifactory

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FREE PINT GLASS (one time use only)

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FRI-SAT: 10-7
SUN: 12-5

THURS-FRI: 3, 4, 5PM
SAT: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5PM
SUN: 2 & 3PM

NEW YEAR'S EVE: 10-5

NEW YEAR'S DAY: CLOSED

Carefully Constructed

"Preoccupied," Vermont Metro Gallery

There's no devil in the details that abound in "Preoccupied," a show at the BCA Center's Vermont Metro Gallery. Instead, there's beauty and bedazzlement in the 40 works by four artists who share an affinity for artifice.

Attention to detail is so fastidious in some of the pieces on display that they bear the hallmarks of obsessions. "Preoccupied"

may be putting it mildly in regard to the ink drawings by Xavier Donnelly and the fabric collages by Duane Shallenbarger. Adrienne Genter's hand-cut paper compositions also reflect a meticulous, time-consuming work method. While Scott Garcia's swirling arrays of dots, stripes and calligraphic veins made by a hand that appears to be simultaneously free-wheeling and structuring.

Donnelly, a clearly precocious 22-year-old, exhibits the sensibility and style of a medieval miniature. His detail-drenched drawings of cityscapes must have taken many, many hours to complete. A few of his pieces consist of thousands of individual buildings packed tightly together, with roads and rivers providing strokes of visual relief from the intense agitation. Both realistic and fanciful, these drawings were executed as though the artist were hovering high above the scene, perhaps in a biplane anchored in the sky.

Paint traces line the streets of a few of Donnelly's cities. These may be a byproduct of the Burlington-based artist's current residence in Lebanon, where he's working at the Beirut Art Center.

Donnelly also has a predilection for classical architecture. It appears most clearly in "Popple," a grouping of front-facing false fronts; and in a trio of enclaves of ancient structures. He likewise pays homage to noble building in "Small City," which, despite its title, appears to depict a part of Paris, with its characteristic tiered roof.

The snowy landscapes that Shallenbarger conjures out of layered, finely stretched fabric fragments reveal a technique no less rigorous than



BOTH REALISTIC AND FANCIFUL, THESE DRAWINGS WERE EXECUTED AS THOUGH THE ARTIST WERE HOVERING HIGH ABOVE THE SCENE.



"Spring" by Adrienne Genter



"Border Town" by Duane Shallenbarger

Donnelly's The Jericho-based artist's depictions protrude slightly from the center of larger, framed surfaces — an effect that isolates the image and subtly induces viewers to scrutinize it closely.

They'll be impressed by the way Shallenbarger arranges bits of materials to produce familiar pastoral scenes.

"Broken Pine at Big Mountain," the name of a river in Michigan where

Shallenbarger summers, is no pretty in that gauzy impressionist style that has become common among Vermont artists. "Trapped" is far sharper and more appealing in its representation of a pair of trees that lost a branch in a presumably wicked wind. Shallenbarger excels at conveying the wary shapes of shadows, as in "Bad Conversations." The small, willow-like delicate branches are repeated in thicket, darker forms etched into a snow bank.

One of the virtues of the Vermont Metro Gallery is its geographic inclusiveness. Were it not for this venue, Burlington and audiences might never get to see works by southern Vermont artists such as Genter. And they'd be missing a lot.

"I work to incorporate an extreme amount of detail to tell not only the macro, but the micro stories in a scene," Genter explains in an artist statement on the BCA website. "This gives the viewer a greater sense of depth, not only visually but narratively."

Exactly so. The Burlington-based artist displays her hand-cut paper in revealing layers that also make use of color gradients to heighten perspective. In "Seeds in the Garden," for example, Genter places a thick entanglement of yellowish-brown weeds in the foreground, pale green budding plants in the middle distance, and a still paler array of flowers and birds against a black backdrop. A snake coils around a tree limb, dangerously close to an untended nest of eggs.

Instead as a painter, Genter deftly varies her palette of cut papers, producing in "Flare-up-blue" a vivid scene of distant mountains and closer-up bare trees that cast mutinous reflections on what appears to be a pool. *Flare-up* (two quarters of smaller pieces — one set done in dark shades, the other in mostly primary colors — the highlight is "Red Sea Fox") In this depiction of coral, medium perfectly matches image.

"Spring," however, rates as Genter's biggest attraction, both in size and visual bravado. This study in violet and mauve is dominated by a tree that seems connected to a earthy turret, accessible by a winding staircase. Alongside this odd combination, a dandy and dandel do a gentle jig. There's a strong hint



A view of 'Call for Your Attention' by Kevin J. Kelley

NEW THIS WEEK

burblings

CHARLES FERGUSON: *Forings* prints and drawings by the Newark artist. January 1-31. Info: 201-341-8000. **Boxcar** in Burlington.

INNOVATION CENTER GROUP SHOW: Works by Ashley Davis, James Day Jr., James Tenebrato, Natalie Jones, Loretta Lottman, Lori Roper, Robert Forster and Scott Nelson on the first floor. Joan Denney, James Fowler, Laurel Duffins, Lynn Lee, Norahanna, Michael Pils and Tom Marston on the second floor. ART CENTER ROBERTS: Chance Hight, Janet Gonzalez, Nana Olayinka, Laura Wein, Karen and Randy Jones on the Bird Floor. Curated by STEAL. January 1-31. Info: 800-520-5202. The Innovation Center in Burlington.

Q: WE ARE THE SMITHS *Q: America's favorite TV series* and *Smile* by American artists, exhibiting their work at various public neighborhood locations. **Through Jan. 9, 5-6 p.m.** **Boxcar** in Burlington.

multidisciplinary arts

HALL STREET STUDIO ART EXHIBITION: Students exhibit work produced during the fall semester including drawings, photography, paintings and sculpture. **January 8-30, 10-4:30 p.m.** **Johnston** in Burlington.

RECENT WORK FROM THE NEW MARIANO POLIGNONE: The real popularity of the late artist, including portraits of art collectors, has led to a new exhibition of his work. **January 8-30, 10-4:30 p.m.** **Boxcar** in Burlington.

ART EVENTS

FIRST FRIDAY ART: Artists showcase their work in various areas. The art is displayed in various public areas. **January 8-30, 10-4:30 p.m.** **Boxcar** in Burlington.

ONGOING SHOWS

burblings

ARTIST: *Artists of the month* present their work in various areas. The art is displayed in various public areas. **January 8-30, 10-4:30 p.m.** **Boxcar** in Burlington.

KEVIN J. KELLEY

INFO

Through Jan. 31, 10-4:30 p.m. **Boxcar** in Burlington. **Through Jan. 31, 10-4:30 p.m.** **Boxcar** in Burlington.



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'Art From the Heart'

Drawn into the spirit of the season with the heartwarming exhibit of artwork by pediatric patients from the University of Vermont Medical Center. Displayed in Burlington's City Hall gallery "Art From the Heart" is an annual display of a Burlington City Arts program by the same name. Coordinated by local artist Rebecca Schwartz, the program provides hospitalized children and their caregivers with art supplies and helps volunteer artists (also hospitalists). "Every day hospital spaces are transformed into temporary art studios by caring volunteers," Schwartz writes. "Dreams are found and expressed with maturity, ideas and devoted time." Through December 31, the pictured work is by a 3-year-old patient.

GABRIEL HARLOW & SEPTIMIAN Green Mountain Experiments: a photographic exhibit that explores the creative art of children and what happens when art is Vermont. Through April 1. Info: 425-5555 Vermont History Museum in Montpelier.

BETHA HUBBARD PATTY DUFFY KIMBLE Design: Inspired by modern design and the artist's daily paintings of the Vermontian in landscape. Set by Hatfield and Noyes House. Through December 27. Info: 249-4750. Exposed Space & Events Center in Montpelier.

SHARON HOLIFIELD KLAGG Continuity: Oil and watercolor paintings and drawings by the artist, exploring the boundaries between space and time. Through January 25. Info: 552-8800. Gallery 501 in Montpelier.

SHARON HOLIFIELD KLAGG Hand painted: Through January 30. Info: 222-4433. Tule Tree Books in Montpelier.

IN SWISS STYLES Everything Must Be Said: A collection of prints, mixed media and watercolor paintings by the artist. Through December 31. Info: 858-2465. Vermont Superior Court Gallery in Montpelier.

info@innings.com

NOVO New from 2007 best new photography magazine and website. \$50 a year plus \$5 for the second \$50 a year. **BARBARA LARSEN & PATRICIA J. ABE** The annual exhibit of landscape photography from the 1900s to the present. Through December 26. Info: 858-2465. Inning Memorial Gallery in Montpelier.

LANDSCAPE TRANSITIONS The new wing of the gallery presents a contemporary landscape work by the artist. **KAREN LEVILL** "Yellow": A series of oil paintings by the artist. Through January 1. Info: 253-1945. West Branch Gallery & Sculpture Park in Stowe.

LAUREN STAGG To a Place: A series of oil paintings by the artist. **KAREN LEVILL** "Yellow": A series of oil paintings by the artist. Through January 1. Info: 253-1945. West Branch Gallery & Sculpture Park in Stowe.

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MAJ RIVER VALLEY/WATERLOO/SHORE & PITT

CHRIS STANLEY Images by the Bananians photographer "Through December 31. Info: 486-2470. Three Mountain Café in Westford.

SARAH BULL BOND 20th-century watercolor paintings of Vermont's history, culture and landscapes by the East Montpelier artist. Through December 31. Info: 486-5152. Vermont Festival of the Arts Gallery in Randolph.

Middlebury area

"CHARITY & SYLVE: A WINTERIDOL COUPLE" Artifacts include poems, artifacts and more illustrating the lives of Charity Sykes and Sylvie Sykes who lived together in a "winteridol" cabin in the early 19th century and are the subject of a new book. Through December 31. **"WOLFGANG TRAINER"** The annual Mid Vermont Folklife festival features an exhibit. Info is listed by e-mail. Through January 5. Info: 367-6717. Henry Shelden Museum of Vermont History in Middlebury.

HARRIAN DESSERRE "Fading Light," paintings of four seasons at the 18th afternoon. **JILL MARION** "Seasons" paintings that depict seasonal transformations include installations, music for work. Through December 31. Info: 433-0268. Clowrie Gallery in Ft. Ann.

JOCKMACALLISTER DOWNSIDE GALLERY Original handmade fine arts and crafts by 12 local artists. Through December 31. Info: 357-7038. Jockmac Gallery, Town Hall Theater in Middlebury.

SMALL HOUSES SHOW A group of small affordable artists work by local artists. Through December 31. Info: 455-0700. Waterloo Gallery & Carpenters Shop in Eastford.

WINTER STORIES Eight area artists exhibit visually accessible work in a series of exhibits. "Kara Bar-Wel," "M. Lunde," "Jaye Wetherby," "Paul Soren," "Nephi Zhang," "Lily Horvath," "Kara Galati," and "Ned Hirsch." Through December 31. Info: 332-2319. 204 E. Deer Street Gallery in Middlebury.

outland area

THE ART OF GIVING One of a kind gifts by local artists Mary Deane, Barb Becker, Barbara Gailard, Judith H. W., 2004. Info: 367-2400. The Center for the Arts, 100 Main St. in Newbury.

MAIRIE "Visions of Autumn," paintings of Autumn Country by the Bourne County artist. Through December 31. Info: 455-0700. Waterloo Gallery & Carpenters Shop in Eastford.

Chaplin's Island/northwest

MAIRIE "Visions of Autumn," paintings of Autumn Country by the Bourne County artist. Through December 31. Info: 455-0700. Waterloo Gallery & Carpenters Shop in Eastford.

regional gallery

THE ART OF "WOLFGANG TRAINER" The annual Mid Vermont Folklife festival features an exhibit. Info is listed by e-mail. Through January 5. Info: 367-6717. Henry Shelden Museum of Vermont History in Middlebury.

SAUL LARSEN "Seasons" 12 watercolor paintings illustrating the seasons and landscapes. Through December 31. Info: 332-2319. Henry Shelden Museum of Vermont History in Middlebury.

"WINTERIDOL" Paintings by the artist of a winteridol cabin in the early 19th century. Through March 31. Info: 367-6717. Henry Shelden Museum of Vermont History in Middlebury.

WATERLOO/SHORE & PITT "Through December 31. Info: 486-2470. Three Mountain Café in Westford.



Hannah Sessions Vermont native Hannah Sessions—who, with her husband, runs Blue Lodge Farm in Leicester—spins her time between farming and artmaking. In "Flirting Light," currently at Edgewater Gallery in Middlebury, Sessions captures her goats and chickens during "blue line, flowering afternoon light that is soft and understated" in the winter. Sessions' richly textured paintings certainly do justice to "golden hour" light, though viewers may find the scenes dominated by sessions' adorable farm animals. Through December 31. Website: "Red Chicken Walk Green."

WILLIE BURMAN "Photography of the Vermont State and Nature." Through January 5. Info: 367-5803. Vermont State Office in Hartford.

"WINTERIDOL, THEN AND NOW" A collection of over 100 photographs of the winteridol cabin in the early 19th century. Through January 5. Info: 367-6717. Henry Shelden Museum of Vermont History in Middlebury.

northwest kingdom

ANDREW LARSEN "Photography of the Vermont State and Nature." Through January 5. Info: 367-5803. Vermont State Office in Hartford.

WILLIE BURMAN "Photography of the Vermont State and Nature." Through January 5. Info: 367-5803. Vermont State Office in Hartford.

"WINTERIDOL, THEN AND NOW" A collection of over 100 photographs of the winteridol cabin in the early 19th century. Through January 5. Info: 367-6717. Henry Shelden Museum of Vermont History in Middlebury.

middlebury/barnet/leicester

MARGARET LAURE KENNEDY "The Vermont State and Nature." Through January 5. Info: 367-5803. Vermont State Office in Hartford.

outside Vermont

ALAN HENNING "Photography of the Vermont State and Nature." Through January 5. Info: 367-5803. Vermont State Office in Hartford.

WILLIE BURMAN "Photography of the Vermont State and Nature." Through January 5. Info: 367-5803. Vermont State Office in Hartford.

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LE STUDIO BERNARDINE CHRISTINE DALE & SNOOK A collection of art and crafts by local artists. Through January 5. Info: 367-5803. Vermont State Office in Hartford.

PAUL & SUSANNE ARTS & CRAFTS "The Vermont State and Nature." Through January 5. Info: 367-5803. Vermont State Office in Hartford.

EUROPE WISE 1900 "The Vermont State and Nature." Through January 5. Info: 367-5803. Vermont State Office in Hartford.

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movies

Kisonak and Harrison at the Movies 2014

Our critics sound off on what sucked and what didn't

BY RICK KISONAK AND MARGOT HARRISON

I have seen the future and it is not so much a little bit burning rubber, as I'm sure you've been keeping up with the latest trends in movie theater design, so you're well aware that 2D is yesterday's news.

The multiplex of tomorrow will feature seats that shake you like a moving mountain, emit rumbles, 200-decibel roars, handsets that blast jets of air to simulate bullets, and water. Lots of water. Milk spumed from the seat in front of you and rain that falls from the ceiling. The film palaces of the future (some come already have them) will be more amusement park than art house, for a single reason: Young people—the industry's lifeblood—are staying home in droves.

Compared with last year, attendance by 18- to 24-year-olds is down 17 percent, according to the Motion Picture Association of America. Ticket sales have plummeted by 15 percent among 12- to 17-year-olds. That's cause for panic when you consider that, of 2014's top-grossing films, four were comic-book movies and two were based on toys. It's not like Hollywood isn't trying.

Talk about the age of extinction: Things are only going to get damper as the industry attempts to lure lost viewers away from their Xboxes and iPhones. So we should all enjoy the few movies still made for actual grown-ups and cinema lovers while we can.

RICK KISONAK

Believe it or not, some grown-ups like some comic-book movies. Even me. I'm more concerned that other movies that might appeal to twenty and thirty-somethings, like *Shakespeare in Love*, are hard to find on demand while art houses focus on the senior audience with *The Mendocino Project* and the like. ("I'll just wait for Netflix") has become a refrain among younger cinephiles, and it shows.

MARGOT HARRISON



Most Stellar Performance

MC Michael Keaton in *Batman Is Back* is probably the favorite in the eye-guy right now. It was great to see him back and at the top of his game. The bugaboo for the guy who launched a thousand superhero movies is that lots of other performers turned in career-best work, too: Eddie Redmayne in *The Theory of Everything*, Jake Gyllenhaal in *Nightcrawler*, Timothy Spall in *Mr. Turner*, Amy Adams in *Big Eyes*, and Julianne Moore in *Still Alice*. (And if those were on Oscar for best screen, Joaquin Phoenix would be a shoo-in for *Inherent Vice*.) But the more front-runners I see, the less I feel any holds a candle to a performance I saw way back in March, the unexpectedly, refreshingly glorious one: Ralph Fiennes

gave us the perfected connoisseur in *The Grand Budapest Hotel*.

MC It's all about baseball films for that year. Two performances haunt my dreams: Jake Gyllenhaal as the creep with a conscience in *Nightcrawler*, and

J.R. Ramirez as the music teacher in *Whiplash*, with his split-second forches from bonkies to psychopathic rage. He made the line "Not quite my tempo" as scary as "I'll be back."

Most Annoying Performance

MC First, everybody in *Jersey Boys*. Robert Downey Jr. may owe his patented overacting career-check thing in *The Judge*. Everybody in *The Other Woman*. And, man, did Josh Brolin and Kate Winslet get on my nerves in the ultra-bare *Love Day*. However, no one was more annoying than Diane Kruger

and Michael Douglas in the even lesser *And So It Goes*.

MC Returning to my baseball theme: As the antagonist of *The Amazing Spider-Man 2*, Jake Fox suffered from an underwritten, miscalculated role. But he didn't impose things by employing it to the cheap wins.

Best Comedy

MC It was a really good year for comedy. *The Lego Movie* was awesome. So were *The Post*, *22 Jump Street*, *Grand Budapest Hotel*, *Chef*, *A Million Ways to Die in the West* (why more people didn't find that a million laughs is beyond me), *Pavlo* and parts of *St. Vincent*. I'm going to be alone on this, I know, but for my money nothing was as funny as *The Trip to Italy*. I hadn't seen 2014's *The Trip*, so a whole new world was opened up to me. I now consider Steve Coogan and Rob Brydon the gods of improv.

MM Film-makers across the pond for the win! The movie that made me laugh the hardest this year was *Frank*, from Irish director Lenny Abrahamson. Which was also one of the more disturbing films I saw.

Also great: *Lego, The Goonies* and *Laden City* Philip And, Yoo Yoo that underdog dog who lived *Neighbors*.

Lamest Comedy

MM Last year I nominated *The Gimp* being lamest, mainly, they had to be going with those rape/huldy and school scenes. This year, I'll make the same craft about its follow-up, *Lovebirds*. I don't see a more laughable attempt at horror all year or as far actual attempts at comedy. I'd have to call this as the between Rob Reiner's also mentioned mess *And So It Goes* and Woody Allen's *Magic in the Moonlight*. You know something's wrong when you wish you could make Emma Stone disappear.

MM That *Arkwold Moment* I don't mind sloppy, half-impressed duck burner (see *Neighbors*). I do mind when Zac Efron, who was infamous as Seth Rogen's antagonist in the later film, tries to be Seth Rogen. Laughing very few in this attempt at a rom com for duck-bros.

Biggest Letdown

MM *Pasos* I admire the hell out of Bennett Miller's previous films (*Capote* and *Moonlight*) but see well scratching my head after four screenings of this last. It's 124 minutes long and never quite gets around to having a point.

MM Here, *Can't* playing a billionaire basketballer who ends in friends to call him "Golden Eagle" isn't enough of a punch? My biggest letdown was *Jezebel*—the parts of it I liked and respected here as seen as *Jezebel* started talking about how love is the fifth dimension, it was all over for me.



Biggest Surprise

MM That a writer-director as successful as Paul Thomas Anderson made as colorful a misanthrope as *Inherent Vice*. It's 148 minutes long and never finds a tone that works or a story line that builds our interest. Thomas Pynchon would have long been considered unfilmable. They still are.

MM As a Pynchon and Anderson fan, I concur, but I wasn't that surprised. I was surprised to find *After* (viewing a film featuring a talking CGI rhesus *Howards of the Galaxy*) *Supernova* flicks near the genre, but in this one, smart-on humor and old-fashioned story-line being was the day.

Film So Forgettable I Didn't Remember Reviewing It Until Doing This Year-End Review

MM I swear I'm not making this up. To test my recollection, I scanned the Seven Days archives and found a review I'd written in July of *Thirteen* (review from *Dead Magicians* with some memory of the film). I read the closing words I'd written about it: "2014 is barely past its midpoint, but, my friends, we have a winner: Higgs' house is a look for worst movie of the year. It's crashing here with the tagline: 'Watch Me' Don't!" I can't remember a second of it. But it sounds bad.

MM I have a similar memory for cinematic crap, but can't say I remember a whole lot about *Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit*. Chris Pine was... a spy. Kenneth Branagh had a bad Russian accent. Something something, er, close, good guys win. I think.

Best New Name to Watch in Front of the Camera

MM I wasn't blown away by much in *St. Vincent*, but new actor Jacob Lethbridge impressed the hell out of me so far. He must've blown Bill Murray away as well. Murray recommended Lethbridge for Cameron Crowe's 2015 project, so we'll get to see the pair share the screen again, hopefully in less formulaic effort.

MM I first noticed *Willis* in *Kubrick* (2014). But after *The Spectacular Now* and now *Wayback*, he's passed to be the next John Cusack—a prodigy, more complex version of the standard geek hero.

Best New Name to Watch Behind the Camera

MM This one's a toss-up. Jennifer Kent's *The Babadook* and Ana Lily Amirpour's *A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night* both pretty much wrote the book in horror playback. Both women wrote and directed their films. With some talents like these establishing themselves, the books behind *The Gimp* and *Pasos* and

Activity *Brachiosaurus* would be wise to start making retirement plans.

MM I want to see more from Damien Chazelle, who made *Whiplash* such a kinetic experience, and from Justin Simien, whose screenplay for his debut *Dear White People* had a lasting interest with.

Most Inexplicable Hit

MM I'd like to point to a most inexplicable trend. No fewer than three low-budget region-based films made Box Office Mojo's year-end list of top 100 grossers between them, *Beverly Hills Cop* (No. 38), *Grifts Not Dead* (No. 43) and *Sen of God* (No. 64) took in more than \$20 million. That's not counting *Nash* (No. 36), with \$104 million, or the recently released biblical blockbuster *Exodus: Gods and Kings*. By contrast, in *De Pictus* front-runner *Baywatch* was way down at No. 86. Maybe director Richard Linklater should pray for an Oscar bump.

MM Which of the top 100 biggest hits of 2014 is least likely to be fondly remembered in years to come? (Chris Nash Rabin has dubbed such films "forgettable.") I'm going with the noisy, postmodern *Wag*—to the extent that it is *The Amazing Spider-Man 2* (No. 9).

Most Inexplicable Flop

MM *Stooper* has been an enigma ever since *From Art to Art* to *Stooper*. Yet the words-around conversation barely mentions it, and it's way down at No. 129 on Box Office Mojo's list. You know what's inexplicable? A film as visionary, beautifully executed and just plain fun as this one selling only \$4 million worth of tickets. Hard to believe that comes from the *Wine* or *Compass*. What's Harvey when you need him?

MM Word is, Weinstein wasn't happy that *Greeter* Bong Joon-ho wouldn't let him rent the film. We're lucky *Stooper*.

NOVEMBER 2014 EW.COM | 93



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movies



Movies 2014

even played in Vermont (Shanks, Severy Theater).

In a similar vein, *The Road 2* is a nonstop, over-the-top action flick that blows movies like *The Expendables* out of the water. But it has a rub: It's a two-down in No. 35.

Freshest, Most Creative Screenplay

EX I've got to go with *Business*. Alejandro González Iñárritu's trippy show has some of a stylistically fearless risk, surreal one moment and sobered the next. I haven't seen a film like go with half as much to say about what it means to be an artist, much less the nerve to ask whether art even matters in a world where movies based on comic books and giant stars can generate more money than some nations' entire economies.

MC I must confess the screenplay for another hyper-violent film about another hyper-violent comic-book action. *Lucy* (Gip) Young, starring Jessica Schwarzman as a young woman who opens a toxic, age-driven vortex in everyone he encounters. Why do I prefer it to *Business*? Because writer-director Alex Ross Perry wrote as his audience's justice and doesn't try to make him into a martyr. And it's fantastic.

Most Formulaic, Cliché-Infested Screenplay

EX *IT Stay* featured Chloë Grace Moretz as a teenager wrestling with the kinds of questions characters in really hardy melodramas are wont to face: Will she get into Juilliard? Can she and her boyfriend make things work? Should she wake up from her coma on a road toward the light now that everybody in her family has been killed? Believe it or not, the script gives pretty much equal weight to these issues. The script certainly made me want to run toward the light, the red light of the exit sign.

MC The Giver took a chilling, little dystopian fable and made it as much as possible like every single other to an untold blockbuster in which pretty young people defy draconian social norms to make out.

Best Omen of Civilization's Impending Downfall

EX I repeat, of 2014's 10 top-grossing films, four were comic-book movies and two were based on toys. I'm surprised this didn't make it into the waste into *Big Bang* conversation's torture repeat.

MC If *Spencer*-class sophisticated could apply civilization, I think we'd all be living in cozy by now. But you know what could, just maybe, tame civilization? People treating movies they haven't seen yet on Twitter. Or speaking and movies more they have seen them. Or twitting about said movie during the twitting movie.

Best Movie With No Movie Stars

EX I was pleasantly startled to discover that *On the Beach* is one of the most recently made, conceptually inventive supernatural thrillers in years. The cast is made up of professionals, but none is well-known enough to distract from the story's

disturbing developments, and that can work greatly to a horror film's advantage. A close second in this category: *Chloe*.

MC *Blue Ruin* is a tight, unpredictable thriller with a moral lesson, reminiscent of *Blood Simple*. I'll grant you on the rebates of lead Mickey Rourke and director Jeremy Saulder.

Worst Movie With an All-Star Cast

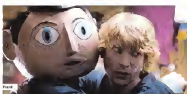
EX George Clooney doesn't blow it off, but when he does, the guy blows it big. For *The Monuments Men*, he recruited some of the most beloved actors of our time. The problem was the script. Its too-bad case to the importance of great paintings and statues was as much fun as an art appreciation class. It turns out the best-laid plans — even George Clooney's — can sometimes lay the biggest eggs.

MC How you ever wondered what would happen if Tom Hanks, Jason Bateman, Adam Driver and Jane Fonda all be landed to one wacky family? In *Is There a Problem Here*, Hanks showed us. Too bad the perfect storm of dysfunction was a crushing bore.

Who We'd Like to See More of in the Movies

EX Jack Nicholson and Gene Hackman have stopped making films, and I wish they'd reconsider. You know who I realized I miss the other day? Peter Fonda. It's not like he's retired. Since appearing in *Hillbilly* to *Yuma* back in 2007, he has kept busy doing TV, video games and direct-to-video indie. Turnstone at some one should give this dude the comeback he deserves.

MC How about more people of color? Maybe in a wider range of roles? Maybe even in behind-the-scenes and the like? *Adrian* needs to be a huge star today.





One from 'Grand Budapest Hotel'

Who We'd Like to See Less of at the Movies

RK Gosh! It's hardly got any vote. Every five years he's given a makeover, and some studio spends a fortune reworking so he's the next big thing. But when has the old film brother failed to let us down?

MH Caricatures complaining about kids today and their social media. From *Beethoven* to *Woody Allen* and *Anna Karenina* movies to *Men*, *Women & Children*, this got-off-my-lones-guy happens a lot at the art house. Look, the internet is here to stay. Let's deal with it.

Best Documentary

RK The year had some pups, *Lyle & Erik* and *Adams' Family* *Home* among them, but none has a greater of taking the day-of-the-year tale from *Leviathan* musical and mind-blowing *Chimpanzee*, a real-time record of the days leading up to Edward Snowden's historic revelations.

MH For some reason, I saw almost no docs this year. But I'm looking forward to catching *The Obama* films, which screened at the Vermont International Film Festival.

Worst Picture

RK There was no shortage of big-screen bums this year, but let's call it a draw between the aforementioned *Third Person* and *Transcendence*. *Age of Extinction*.



From 'Women & Children'

Everybody knows these films suck, yet practically everybody sees them anyway. The fourth in Michael Bay's series inspired by *Mad Max* says so. A lot. It may be the craggiest, stupidest movie ever made.

MH I was so happy to avoid that one. Thanks for hitting the ball. My choice is *Jason Momoa's* latest drama, in which a lot of A-list stars, *Women & Children* misbehavior on the internet, and every imaginable after-school-special cliché was used. Oh, and *Katrina Thompson* narrated the whole thing. From outer space.

Best Picture

RK *Amadeus* anyone has rarely been as wide open as this year's. With each new indie may or critic group's announcement, a new movie seems to emerge as the most likely to succeed. *A Most Violent Year* (2014), *Lincoln*, *Boyhood*, *Stone Cold*, *Insurgent*, *Julien*, *The Irishman*, *Game*, *The Theory of Everything* and *Chlorine* have all been called the one to beat. And they all have their merits. All releases tend to receive preferential treatment, but sometimes the most recognized piece of one-on-one pages before anyone has Oscar on the brain. Case in point: If somebody made a movie more impressive than *Wes Anderson's* eighth, *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, I didn't see it. It's a joyride, a flight of high-grade fancy, and a rippin' good regularly rated roller coaster at a year.

MH You think your choice is out of the awards running? Mine is miles out. This year brought as it say movies about the travails of artists in an unforgiving world — *Britannia* and *Whiplash*, some promising — but none got under my skin like *Jessie*. It's a quietest about a nine-year-old girl who joins a band of words, except it's not. The movie sheds course modernism to make in question everything we think we know about the crazy/suffering-artist trope. And it has Michael Fassbender creating a song to a suspect fall. Surely that deserves some sort of award? ☺

Call for Proposals

Questions? Email epscall@vt.edu, phone 802-241-1911, or visit us on the web at www.vt.edu/EPSCall



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ONE LAPP



EDNE SWABETTE



LULU EIGHTBALL

CHRISTMAS EVE TRADITIONS



MICHAEL DEFOGE



Complex's note: "Chronicle[ing] human folly gets harder every year because as fables proliferate, the odd seems commonplace. These unbelievably true true news stories, however, stand out as the year's quirkiest."

Caught Stupid

When the police officer who stopped Douglas Giddens, 28, in Livermore Falls, Maine, found marijuana in his vehicle, Giddens insisted the pot couldn't be his because he had stolen the car. (Portland Sun Journal)

When Guns Are Outlawed

Myron Cluffy, 60, told police in Albuquerque, N.M., that her daughter, Gena Cluffy, 32, hit her over the head with an electric vibrator during an argument. (Smoking Gun)

Police arrested Charlotte O'Leary, 33, after her daughter, Jessica Caldwell, 15, reported that the mother smacked her in the face with "a used diaper." (Smoking Gun)

German authorities warned that two women were robbing "anxiety older women" by hypnotizing them. Police official Sandra Mohr and a 66-year-old Russian woman reported that the women "told her that they would read her fortune, but the next thing she knew she was back home sitting in an armchair, and all her jewelry and valuables had vanished." (Britain's Daily Mail)

Unclear on the Concept

Hoping to make solo dinner feed less self-economies, Tokyo's Moonlight Café began seating them at tables across from giant sit-down animals representing characters from a Japanese picture book series. (Time)

Petishes on Parade

Leanne Hutton, 48, tried to have sex with an automatic teller machine at a bar in Marlborough, Mass. Police officers who found Hutton were down asked said that when they took her outside and ordered him to sit at a picnic table, he "tuposed himself again and engaged in sexual intercourse with the wooden picnic table." (Nashville's WSRN-TV)

Edwin Tobregan, 32, was arrested for having sex with a pink pool float in Hamilton, Ohio. Police said it was his third arrest for the same act, although with different pool floats. (Louisville, Ky's WLKY-TV)

What Could Go Wrong?

Intending to calm students before final exams, St. Louis's Washington University had a petting zoo bring several animals to campus for students to cuddle. One was a 2-month-old bear cub which pouncing her and scratched at least 18 students. (Reuters)

Mensa Rejects of the Year

Researchers needed a stretchier to carry a student who hurt his ankle while climbing one of Scotland's highest mountains in his flip flops. One of the

injured man's companions was barefoot, the other was wearing slippers. The three men explained they wanted to reach the top of Annapurna Mier to not perceive snow for the first time. (BBC News)

Success Breeds Failure

Hoping to attract riders, city buses in Saint John, New Brunswick, began offering free wireless internet service. It then announced it was discontinuing the service after it became so popular that the cost tripled. "We had a lot of people streaming and downloading very extensive files, and the usage got very high," transit commission general manager Frank McCarty said. (CBC News)

EDWIN TOBREGAN, 32, WAS ARRESTED FOR HAVING SEX WITH A PINK POOL FLOAT IN HAMILTON, OHIO. IT WAS HIS THIRD ARREST FOR THE SAME ACT.

Lesson Learned

Dorelle Shira, 32, admitted phoning bomb threats to cancel Queens' University's spring graduation ceremony because she didn't want her family to discover that she wasn't graduating. She had scripted away from her mother for tuition but never enrolled. (New Haven Register)

Litigation Nation

Nigel Byles, 25, used the pizzeria he admitted robbing in Wilmington, Del., claiming that employees who tackled him and searched his gas away during the hold-up used "unreasonable" rough

ness to subdue him by "punching, kicking and peeing soap over my body." (Wilmington News)

For the Record

When Willie Hubbard called 911 to report a carjacking after he witnessed a woman getting thrown to the ground by a man who then drove off in her car in DeKalb County, Ga., the operator informed him it wasn't a carjacking but a theft. The two then hotly debated whether the crime was a carjacking or a theft, delaying police response for more than 30 minutes. (Atlanta's WAGA-TV)

Capitalizing on the Post AOL reported it still has 2.4 million dial-up internet subscribers, paying an average of \$20 a month, three its dial-up business costs little to operate, 70 percent of its revenue is profit. (Washington Post)

DIY Law and Order

Police forces in England and Wales began asking crime victims to carry out their own investigations after having their own status or property damaged by looking out for potential fingerprint evidence, checking for witnesses and searching second-hand websites for their stolen property. (Britain's Independent)

JEN SORRISON



HARRY BLISS



FRAN KRAUSE

DEEP DARK FEARS



WHATEVER I FEEL LIKE ME
LIKE, HE JUST A MURDER,



AND EVERYONE I KNOW IS
A PAID ALIEN.



AND IF I COULD ONLY
SEE BEHIND MY BACK,



THE END CREATES WORLD
JUST BE STARTING THIS ORN.

Have a deep, dark fear of your own? Submit it to cartoonist Fran Krause at deep-dark-fears.tumblr.com and you may see your nervous illustrated in these pages.

RED MEAT

Illustrations by Max Cannon

from the writers desk of



THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

2014 IN REVIEW

A YEAR OF SURPRISES AND CONSPIRACIES
REVEALS A NEW DIRECTION
AT THE END OF THE YEAR

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KAZTOONS



WORK IS LOVE MADE VISIBLE.

And if you cannot work with love but only with distaste, it is better that you should leave your work and sit at the gate of the temple and take alms of those who work with joy.

For if you bake bread with indifference, you bake a bitter bread that feeds but half man's hunger.

And if you grudge the crushing of the grapes, your grudge distills a poison in the wine.

And if you sing though as angels, and love not the singing, you muffle man's ears to the voices of the day and the voices of the night.

Khalil Gibran

Thanks for a wonderful year at Healthy Living Market and Cafe! May the New Year be one of wellness, peace, joy and one big celebration of togetherness!

